

A1 in Northumberland: Morpeth to Ellingham

Scheme Number: TR010041

6.12 Scoping Opinion Part A

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed
Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

Regulations 5(2)

Volume 6

June 2020

Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

**The Infrastructure Planning
(Applications: Prescribed Forms and
Procedure) Regulations 2009**

**The A1 in Northumberland: Morpeth to Ellingham
Development Consent Order 20[xx]**

SCOPING OPINION PART A

Regulation Reference:	Regulations 5(2)
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Reference	TR010041
Application Document Reference	TR010041/APP/6.12
Author:	A1 in Northumberland Project Team, Highways England

Version	Date	Status of Version
Rev 0	June 2020	Application Issue

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SCOPING OPINION:

Proposed A1 Northumberland Morpeth to Felton

Case Reference: TR010041

Adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government) pursuant to Regulation 10 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

March 2018

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 On 25 January 2018, the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) on behalf of the Secretary of State (SoS) received a scoping request from Highways England (the Applicant) under Regulation 10 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) for the proposed A1 Northumberland – Morpeth to Felton Improvement Scheme (the Proposed Development).
- 1.1.2 In accordance with Regulation 10 of the EIA Regulations, an Applicant may ask the SoS to state in writing its opinion *'as to the scope, and level of detail, of the information to be provided in the environmental statement'*.
- 1.1.3 This document is the Scoping Opinion (the Opinion) provided by the Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS in respect of the Proposed Development. It is made on the basis of the information provided in the Applicant's report entitled 'A1 Northumberland Morpeth to Felton Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report' (the Scoping Report). This Opinion can only reflect the proposals as currently described by the Applicant. The Scoping Opinion should be read in conjunction with the Applicant's Scoping Report.
- 1.1.4 The Applicant has notified the SoS under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that they propose to provide an Environmental Statement (ES) in respect of the Proposed Development. Therefore, in accordance with Regulation 6(2)(a) of the EIA Regulations, the Proposed Development is EIA development.
- 1.1.5 Regulation 10(9) of the EIA Regulations requires that before adopting a scoping opinion the Inspectorate must take into account:
- (a) *any information provided about the proposed development;*
 - (b) *the specific characteristics of the development;*
 - (c) *the likely significant effects of the development on the environment;*
and
 - (d) *in the case of a subsequent application, the environmental statement submitted with the original application.*
- 1.1.6 Paragraph 1.2.11 of the Scoping Report explains that, there has been an update to the Proposed Development in December 2017 and consequently the red line boundary shown in the Scoping Report no longer precisely matches the currently envisaged red line for the Proposed Development. The Inspectorate sought clarification from the Applicant on this point particularly the extent to which the currently envisaged red line differs from that in the Scoping Report. The Applicant confirmed that there were no substantial differences and that the shapefile provided to the Planning Inspectorate and used for the purpose

of identifying the consultation bodies was broadly consistent with the updated red line boundary.

- 1.1.7 This Opinion has taken into account the requirements of the EIA Regulations as well as current best practice towards preparation of an environmental statement (ES).
- 1.1.8 The Inspectorate has consulted on the Applicant's Scoping Report and the responses received from the consultation bodies have been taken into account in adopting this Opinion (see Appendix 2).
- 1.1.9 The points addressed by the Applicant in the Scoping Report have been carefully considered and use has been made of professional judgement and experience in order to adopt this Opinion. It should be noted that when it comes to consider the ES, the Inspectorate will take account of relevant legislation and guidelines. The Inspectorate will not be precluded from requiring additional information if it is considered necessary in connection with the ES submitted with the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO).
- 1.1.10 This Opinion should not be construed as implying that the Inspectorate agrees with the information or comments provided by the Applicant in their request for an opinion from the Inspectorate. In particular, comments from the Inspectorate in this Opinion are without prejudice to any later decisions taken (eg on submission of the application) that any development identified by the Applicant is necessarily to be treated as part of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) or associated development or development that does not require development consent.
- 1.1.11 Regulation 10(3) of the EIA Regulations states that a request for a scoping opinion must include:
- (a) *a plan sufficient to identify the land;*
 - (b) *a description of the proposed development, including its location and technical capacity;*
 - (c) *an explanation of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment; and*
 - (d) *such other information or representations as the person making the request may wish to provide or make.*
- 1.1.12 The Inspectorate considers that this has been provided in the Applicant's Scoping Report. The Inspectorate is satisfied that the Scoping Report encompasses the relevant aspects identified in the EIA Regulations.
- 1.1.13 In accordance with Regulation 14(3)(a), where a scoping opinion has been issued in accordance with Regulation 10 an ES accompanying an application for an order granting development consent should be based on '*the most recent scoping opinion adopted (so far as the proposed development remains materially the same as the proposed development which was subject to that opinion)*'.

- 1.1.14 The Inspectorate notes the potential need to carry out an assessment under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the Habitats Regulations). This document must be co-ordinated with the EIA, to avoid duplication of information between assessments.

1.2 The Planning Inspectorate's Consultation

- 1.2.1 In accordance with Regulation 10(6) of the EIA Regulations the Inspectorate has consulted the consultation bodies before adopting a scoping opinion. A list of the consultation bodies formally consulted by the Inspectorate is provided at Appendix 1. The consultation bodies have been notified under Regulation 11(1)(a) of the duty imposed on them by Regulation 11(3) of the EIA Regulations to make information available to the Applicant relevant to the preparation of the ES. The Applicant should note that whilst the list can inform their consultation, it should not be relied upon for that purpose.
- 1.2.2 The list of respondents who replied within the statutory timeframe and whose comments have been taken into account in the preparation of this Opinion is provided, along with copies of their comments, at Appendix 2, to which the Applicant should refer in undertaking the EIA.
- 1.2.3 The ES submitted by the Applicant should demonstrate consideration of the points raised by the consultation bodies. It is recommended that a table is provided in the ES summarising the scoping responses from the consultation bodies and how they are, or are not, addressed in the ES.
- 1.2.4 Any consultation responses received after the statutory deadline for receipt of comments will not be taken into account within this Opinion. Late responses will be forwarded to the Applicant and will be made available on the Inspectorate's website. The Applicant should also give due consideration to those comments in carrying out the EIA.

1.3 Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union

- 1.3.1 On 23 June 2016, the United Kingdom (UK) held a referendum and voted to leave the European Union (EU). On 29 March 2017 the Prime Minister triggered Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union, which commenced a two year period of negotiations regarding the UK's exit from the EU. There is no immediate change to legislation or policy affecting national infrastructure. Relevant EU Directives have been transposed into UK law and those are unchanged until amended by Parliament.

2. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following is a summary of the information on the Proposed Development and its site and surroundings prepared by the Applicant and included in their Scoping Report. The information has not been verified and it has been assumed that the information provided reflects the existing knowledge of the Proposed Development and the potential receptors/resources.

2.2 Description of the Proposed Development

2.2.1 The Applicant's description of the Proposed Development, its location and technical capacity (where relevant) is provided in Scoping Report sections 3.3 – 3.4.

2.2.2 The Proposed Development is intended to improve the existing A1 in Northumberland between Morpeth and Felton, with a particular focus on bettering safety, resilience and journey times along the route. This is to be achieved through the introduction of approximately 6.6km of online widening and 6km of new offline highway in order to provide more lanes and increase capacity. The proposals will include dualling of the existing single carriageway section of the A1 and the construction of new bridges, access arrangements and grade separated junctions, but no further information has been provided on the scale or dimensions applicable to these works or structures. The Proposed Development will also require the diversion of a high pressure gas main, which may in turn necessitate alterations to other pipelines and electricity lines.

2.2.3 The Proposed Development is located in Northumberland, between Warreners House Interchange at Morpeth and the dual carriageway at Felton, as shown on Figure 1.1 at Appendix B of the Scoping Report. The River Coquet and Coquet Valley Woodlands SSSI lies within the footprint of the Proposed Development, and the surrounding area is characterised by predominately rural land uses, with the existing A1 running adjacent to agricultural land and woodlands. Environmental constraints are shown on Figure 1.2 at Appendix B of the Scoping Report. The southern extent of the Proposed Development is located within designated Green Belt, which is depicted on Figure 9.2 of the Scoping Report.

2.3 The Planning Inspectorate's Comments

Description of the Proposed Development

2.3.1 Chapter 3 of the Scoping Report provides a description of the Proposed Development, but lacks in-depth detail on the various elements, and does not include dimensions or detailed drawings. The proposed improvements are broken down by reference to various distinct sections of the A1, but these sections are not identified on any of the plans provided. The ES

must include a description of the physical characteristics of the Proposed Development. The description should also explain the maximum parameters, limits of deviation, and the dimensions, locations and alignments of the various project elements, including points of access and key structures e.g. culverts and bridges to be constructed. The ES should provide figures to support the project description and depict the necessary detail.

- 2.3.2 The redline footprint of the Proposed Development provided in the Scoping Report currently provides flexibility to the final design, including options for temporary construction site compounds and balancing ponds, along with allowance for variation in the alignment of a section of the proposed offline bypass. The Applicant should ensure that the ES provides specific information on each of these elements, including the number, size and location of construction compounds and balancing ponds. This information is important to ensure that any potential significant effects associated with the construction and operation stages have been appropriately assessed. As outlined above, figures should be provided, setting out the necessary detail for ease of reference.
- 2.3.3 Construction of the Proposed Development is anticipated to last approximately 3 years and is expected to commence from March 2020. The ES should contain a general construction programme so that it is clear how and when the specific works will take place, and how resulting effects on the road network are to be managed. It should provide a description of the land use requirements during both the construction and operational phases. It is also important that the ES clearly identifies and distinguishes areas of land or works which are required either permanently or on a temporary basis.
- 2.3.4 The Scoping Report states that the Proposed Development will require the diversion of an existing National Grid high-pressure gas main, and may also require diversion of a section of Northern Gas Networks pipeline and a Northern Powergrid overhead electricity line. This will necessitate associated ground moving activities such as excavation and the establishment of temporary work areas. However, limited further information is provided on these diversions. The Applicant should ensure that the ES provides specific detailed information on this element of the Proposed Development, including plans to identify the diversions, and should ensure that any assessment is consistent with DCO specifications.
- 2.3.5 Due to the absence of a detailed drainage design, the Scoping Report refers to indicative drainage proposals. The ES should provide a clear and specific textual description of the proposed drainage arrangements, indicating the location of any pipework or balancing ponds by reference to plans.
- 2.3.6 The Scoping Report states that the requirement for lighting for the road is currently being developed, but that it is currently considered that this will not be necessary. Should the Applicant decide that lighting is required the ES should assess any impacts associated with lighting, such

as light spill, as part of the relevant aspect assessments with evidence as to how this has been taken into account.

- 2.3.7 Demolition works are referenced throughout the Scoping Report, but in-depth details have not been provided, or referenced in the description of the Proposed Development. The ES should provide full details of the necessary demolition works and it should be clear at what point in the programme this would occur. Where relevant, the Applicant should ensure that the ES aspect chapters assess the likely significant effects resulting from demolition activities.
- 2.3.8 Diversions and closures of roads, footpaths and public rights of way are highlighted throughout the Scoping Report. The ES should contain a full explanation of such closures and diversions, including whether they are temporary or permanent, and associated impacts should be fully assessed. This information should also be depicted on figures in the ES to provide further clarity. The Scoping Report also states that where existing traffic communication technology does not meet current standards, it would be replaced to ensure operational expectations are met. Information on any such replacement will also be required in the ES, and figures should again be provided to show the location of any technology to be installed by way of upgrading.
- 2.3.9 Paragraph 9.4.2 of the Scoping Report refers to temporary spoil heaps and borrow pits during the construction phase. No further details are provided such as the number and location, and they have not been referenced in the description of the Proposed Development in the Scoping Report. The ES should describe and depict the dimensions of these elements, and the locations where they will be sited.
- 2.3.10 Table 15-4 of the Scoping Report also outlines the materials to be used and waste to be generated by the Proposed Development. The nature and volume of materials should also be included in the description of the Proposed Development, including justification of any key assumptions made.

Alternatives

- 2.3.11 The EIA Regulations require that the Applicant provide 'A description of the reasonable alternatives (for example in terms of development design, technology, location, size and scale) studied by the developer, which are relevant to the proposed project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects'.
- 2.3.12 Chapter 4 of the Scoping Report describes the process of options identification undertaken by the Applicant to date, considering the full route of the A1 in Northumberland and identifying three possible route options, and highlights that alternative design options and design considerations will be reported in the ES.

- 2.3.13 The Inspectorate would expect to see a discrete section in the ES that provides details of the alternatives considered and the reasoning for the selection of the chosen option(s), including a comparison of the environmental effects.

Flexibility

- 2.3.14 The Applicant's attention is drawn to the Inspectorate's Advice Note Nine 'Using the Rochdale Envelope'¹, which provides additional details on the recommended approach.
- 2.3.15 The Applicant should make every attempt to narrow the range of options and explain clearly in the ES which elements of the Proposed Development have yet to be finalised and provide the reasons. At the time of application, any Proposed Development parameters should not be so wide-ranging as to represent effectively different developments. The development parameters will need to be clearly defined in the draft DCO (dDCO) and in the accompanying ES. It is a matter for the Applicant, in preparing an ES, to consider whether it is possible to robustly assess a range of impacts resulting from a large number of undecided parameters. The description of the Proposed Development in the ES must not be so wide that it is insufficiently certain to comply with the requirements of Regulation 14 of the EIA Regulations.
- 2.3.16 It should be noted that if the Proposed Development changes substantially during the EIA process and prior to submission of the DCO application the Applicant may wish to consider requesting a new scoping opinion.

¹ Advice Note nine: Using the Rochdale Envelope. 2012. Available at:
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>

3. EIA APPROACH

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 This section contains the Inspectorate's specific comments on the scope and level of detail of information to be provided in the Applicant's ES. General advice on the presentation of an ES is provided in the Inspectorate's Advice Note Seven 'Environmental Impact Assessment: Process, Preliminary Environmental Information and Environmental Statements'² and associated appendices.
- 3.1.2 Aspects / matters are not scoped out unless specifically addressed and justified by the Applicant, and confirmed as being scoped out by the Inspectorate. The ES should be based on the Scoping Opinion in so far as the Proposed Development remains materially the same as the Proposed Development described in the Applicant's Scoping Report. The Inspectorate has set out in this Opinion where it has/ has not agreed to scope out certain aspects/ matters on the basis of the information available at this time. The Inspectorate is content that this should not prevent the Applicant from subsequently agreeing with the relevant consultees to scope such aspects/ matters out of the ES, where further evidence has been provided to justify this approach. However, in order to demonstrate that the aspects/ matters have been appropriately addressed, the ES should explain the reasoning for scoping them out and justify the approach taken.
- 3.1.3 Where relevant, the ES should provide reference to how the delivery of measures proposed to prevent/minimise adverse effects is secured through DCO requirements (or other suitably robust methods) and whether relevant consultees agree on the adequacy of the measures proposed.

3.2 Relevant National Policy Statements (NPSs)

- 3.2.1 Sector-specific NPSs are produced by the relevant Government Departments and set out national policy for NSIPs. They provide the framework within which the Examining Authority (ExA) will make their recommendation to the SoS and include the Government's objectives for the development of NSIPs. The NPSs may include environmental requirements for NSIPs, which Applicants should address within their ES.
- 3.2.2 The designated NPS relevant to the National Networks sector is the National Networks NPS (NPSNN).

² Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: Process, Preliminary Environmental Information and Environmental Statements and annex. Available from: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>

3.3 Scope of Assessment

General

- 3.3.1 The Inspectorate recommends that in order to assist the decision-making process, the Applicant uses tables:
- to demonstrate how the assessment has taken account of this Opinion;
 - to identify and collate the residual effects after mitigation for each of the aspect chapters, including the relevant interrelationships and cumulative effects;
 - to set out the proposed mitigation and/or monitoring measures including cross-reference to the means of securing such measures (eg a dDCO requirement);
 - to describe any remedial measures that are identified as being necessary following monitoring; and
 - to identify where details are contained in the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA report) (where relevant), such as descriptions of European sites and their locations, together with any mitigation or compensation measures, are to be found in the ES.
- 3.3.2 The Inspectorate considers that where a DCO application includes works described as 'associated development', that could themselves be defined as an improvement of a highway, the Applicant should ensure that the ES accompanying that application distinguishes between; effects that primarily derive from the integral works which form the proposed (or part of the proposed) NSIP and those that primarily derive from the works described as associated development, for example through a suitably compiled summary table. This will have the benefit of giving greater confidence to the Inspectorate that what is proposed is not in fact an additional NSIP defined in accordance with s22 of the PA2008.

Baseline Scenario

- 3.3.3 The ES should include a description of the baseline scenario with and without implementation of the development as far as natural changes from the baseline scenario can be assessed with reasonable effort on the basis of the availability of environmental information and scientific knowledge.
- 3.3.4 The ES should provide a clear description of the baseline particularly in respect of the existing road network that is to be affected. This is essential to the accurate assessment of the Proposed Development's effects.

Forecasting methods or evidence

- 3.3.5 The ES should contain the timescales upon which the surveys that underpin the technical assessments have been based. For clarity, this information should be provided either in the introductory chapters of the ES (with confirmation that these timescales apply to all chapters), or in each aspect chapter.
- 3.3.6 The study areas used for the assessments in the ES should reflect the zone of influence for the Proposed Development. It is acknowledged that this will vary for different aspects of the environment but the ES must clearly explain the justification for the extent of each study area. The Applicant should seek to agree the study areas with the relevant stakeholders wherever possible. Detailed comments for each aspect of the environment covered by the Scoping Report are provided in section 4 of this Opinion.
- 3.3.1 Strategic traffic modelling will underpin a number of assessments in the ES. It must be based on growth figures that take account of permissions already being implemented, extant permissions yet to be implemented and allocations in the relevant Local Plan documents. It should also take account of traffic growth associated with any other major developments.
- 3.3.2 The Inspectorate expects the ES to include a chapter setting out the overarching methodology for the EIA, which clearly states which effects are 'significant' and 'non-significant' for the purposes of the EIA. Any departure from that methodology should be described in individual aspect assessment chapters
- 3.3.3 The ES should include details of difficulties (for example technical deficiencies or lack of knowledge) encountered compiling the required information and the main uncertainties involved.

Residues and emissions

- 3.3.4 The EIA Regulations require an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions. Specific reference should be made to water, air, soil and subsoil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation and quantities and types of waste produced during the construction and operation phases, where relevant. This information should be provided in a clear and consistent fashion and may be integrated into the relevant aspect assessments.

Mitigation

- 3.3.5 Any mitigation relied upon for the purposes of the assessment should be explained in detail within the ES. The likely efficacy of the mitigation proposed should be explained with reference to residual effects. The ES should also address how any mitigation proposed is secured, ideally with reference to specific DCO requirements or other legally binding agreements.

- 3.3.6 The Scoping Report identifies high level proposals as mitigation for effects on several aspects of the environment. If mitigation is being relied upon to avoid significant effects, the ES should clearly state what these measures are and how their delivery would be secured.

Vulnerability of the development to risks of major accidents and/or disasters

- 3.3.7 The ES should include a description of the potential vulnerability of the Proposed Development to risks of major accidents and/or disasters, including vulnerability to climate change, which are relevant to the Proposed Development. Relevant information available and obtained through risk assessments pursuant to European Union legislation such as Directive 2012/18/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council or Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom or relevant assessments carried out pursuant to national legislation may be used for this purpose provided that the requirements of this Directive are met. Where appropriate, this description should include measures envisaged to prevent or mitigate the significant adverse effects of such events on the environment and details of the preparedness for and proposed response to such emergencies.
- 3.3.8 Paragraph 6.3.15 of the Scoping Report uses the term 'major events' to cover both major accidents and disasters. Potential major events have been identified in paragraph 6.3.23 of the Scoping Report as severe weather and transport accidents based on the location and nature of the Proposed Development, the likelihood of occurrence and the surrounding land uses. The ES should clearly explain in detail the approach taken by the Applicant in arriving at this conclusion. The Scoping Report states that a qualitative assessment of significance for the vulnerability of the Proposed Development will be carried out and reported for relevant individual topics in the ES. The ES should clearly explain the assessment methodology, if specific guidance documents are relied upon and are necessary to understand the approach taken, they should be readily available or provided with the ES.

Transboundary effects

- 3.3.9 Schedule 4 Part 5 of the EIA Regulations requires a description of the likely significant transboundary effects to be provided in an ES. The Inspectorate notes that the Applicant has indicated in the Scoping Report that the Proposed Development is unlikely to have significant impacts on another European Economic Area (EEA) State.
- 3.3.10 Regulation 32 of the EIA Regulations inter alia requires the Inspectorate to publicise a DCO application on behalf of the SoS if it is of the view that the proposal is likely to have significant effects on the environment of another EEA state, and where relevant, to consult with the EEA state affected.
- 3.3.11 The Inspectorate considers that where Regulation 32 applies, this is likely to have implications for the examination of a DCO application. The Inspectorate recommends that the ES should identify whether the

Proposed Development has the potential for significant transboundary impacts and if so, what these are and which EEA States would be affected.

A reference list

- 3.3.12 A reference list detailing the sources used for the descriptions and assessments must be included in the ES.

3.4 Confidential Information

- 3.4.1 In some circumstances it will be appropriate for information to be kept confidential. In particular, this may relate to information about the presence and locations of rare or sensitive species such as badgers, rare birds and plants where disturbance, damage, persecution or commercial exploitation may result from publication of the information. Where documents are intended to remain confidential the Applicant should provide these as separate paper and electronic documents with their confidential nature clearly indicated in the title, and watermarked as such on each page. The information should not be incorporated within other documents that are intended for publication or which the Inspectorate would be required to disclose under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

4. ASPECT BASED SCOPING TABLES

4.1 Air quality

(Scoping Report section 7)

Section 7.2 of the Scoping Report states that the study area for the assessment of construction impacts will be defined as areas within 200m of the site boundary for the duration of the build. For operational impacts it will be determined by analysis of the Preliminary Design Stage traffic data to define the affected road networks (ARN), and will consist of a 200m corridor either side of all roads in the ARN. The criteria used to identify the ARN are set out in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) HA 20/07 guidance.

Section 7.7 explains that the assessment of air quality will be based on the DMRB HA 20/07 guidance, associated Interim Advice Notes (IANs), and Defra's Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance. ADMS Roads will be used to calculate pollutant concentrations at sensitive receptor locations in the study area using traffic data. The significance criteria contained in IAN 174/13 will be used for the assessment of air quality, and the significance of effects upon ecological receptors will be determined in accordance with DMRB HA 207/07.

The Scoping Report does not identify any Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within the administrative area of the local planning authority.

Potential impacts from the construction phase have been identified as increased dust and particulate matter (PM₁₀) generation due to onsite activities. Potential impacts from the operational phase have been identified as change in pollutant concentrations (notably NO₂) due to exhaust emissions from road traffic, and increase in nitrogen deposition on nearby sensitive designated ecological sites above the critical load as a result of increased traffic.

The River Coquet and Coquet Valley Woodlands SSSI has been identified as a potential ecological receptor.

The Inspectorate has provided comments on matters that the Applicant has set out as being scoped out of the ES.

ID	Para	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
1	7.7.1	Air quality impacts during construction	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out an assessment of air quality impacts during construction due to the temporary nature of such effects, which will be managed by the application of standard mitigation measures. The Inspectorate does not consider that there is sufficient evidence provided in the Scoping Report to support a decision to scope this matter out of the

			assessment. The Applicant proposes to apply the DMRB HA 207/07 methodology to the assessment, which requires an assessment of air quality impacts from construction traffic if the activity is anticipated to last for more than 6 months. Therefore the Inspectorate considers that an assessment of the effects on air quality from construction traffic and construction dust should be assessed and reported in the ES. The baseline conditions should take into account construction traffic routes, diversionary routes and final construction compound locations. The effectiveness of mitigation measures in reducing the significance of effects should be assessed. The Applicant's attention is drawn to the consultation response of Public Health England (PHE), which states that in the assessment of impacts the construction phase should be considered.
2	7.7.3	Assessment of impacts from increased particulate matter	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out consideration of particulate matter. The Inspectorate does not consider that there is sufficient evidence provided in the Scoping Report to support a decision to scope this matter out of the assessment. The Inspectorate considers that the ES should include an assessment of impacts associated with all relevant pollutants under the EU ambient air quality directive, including increased particulate matter (PM _{2.5} and PM ₁₀), resulting from the Proposed Development. In determining significance the assessment should take into account performance against relevant target/ limit values. The Applicant's attention is drawn to the consultation response of PHE, which states that the assessment of impacts should encompass all pollutants which may be emitted.
	Para	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
3	1.2.11 and 3.4.24	Construction compounds	The Scoping Report states that the location of construction compounds is to be finalised. Once these locations are known, the potential impacts on air quality should be reassessed as part of the ES in relation to any nearby human or ecological receptors.

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4	7.2	Study area for construction impacts	The Scoping Report states that the study area for construction impacts will include areas within 200m of the site boundary for the duration of the construction phase. The Inspectorate is of the view that this is satisfactory for the assessment of dust emissions but would expect that in assessing the impacts from construction traffic the study area would be based on traffic change criteria used to define the ARN for the air quality assessments.
5	7.3	Sensitive receptors	The Scoping Report does not identify any human receptors which may be affected by the impacts of the Proposed Development on air quality. The ES should clearly set out the type and quantity of both human and ecological receptors which could be affected, and identify their locations by reference to a plan. The Applicant's attention is drawn to DMRB HA 207/07 which states that particular attention should be paid to the location of the young, elderly and other susceptible populations/receptors. The advice from PHE in Appendix 2 of this report also supports the need for the assessment to consider impacts on residential areas and sensitive receptors. The Applicant is advised to agree which receptors should be included in the assessment with Northumberland County Council (NCC) and other relevant stakeholders such as Natural England (NE). If no human receptors are likely to be affected then the ES should provide a justification as to why this is the case.
6	7.3.2	Local authority baseline data	The Inspectorate notes that local planning authority data and diffusion tube monitoring will be used to establish the baseline information. The assessment in the ES should be undertaken on the basis of relevant and up to date baseline information, including the dates on which monitoring was undertaken. The chosen monitoring locations should be depicted on an accompanying plan in the ES.
7	7.3.10	Applicant baseline data	The Scoping Report identifies that diffusion tube monitoring has been undertaken by the Applicant over 6 months at 8 locations between February and July 2017, as shown

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			on Figure 7.1. This does not appear to match the advice in Defra's 'Practical Guidance on using NO ₂ diffusion tubes for LAQM' which advises that all surveys should be carried out for a minimum of six months, comprising three summer and three winter months. The Applicant should ensure that the baseline data relied on in the ES is robust and fit for purpose.
8	7.3.13	Effects on ecological receptors	The Scoping Report identifies the River Coquet and Coquet Valley Woodlands SSSI where the critical NO _x for the protection of vegetation has already been exceeded. Figure 1.2 appears to show Local Wildlife Sites and ancient woodland within 200m of the red line boundary. The Applicant should ensure that in addition to designated sites which may be impacted by changes in air quality, the ES should additionally assess locally and non-designated sites that could be affected by the Proposed Development in line with the DMRB HA207/07 methodology. The need to consider other sensitive nature conservation sites should be established through consultation with the relevant statutory consultees. Any specific mitigation measures required to address the effects on these sites from NO _x should be clearly identified and secured.
9	7.5	Monitoring	The Scoping Report at present does not reference monitoring of air quality during construction or operation to ensure the appropriateness of mitigation. The need for and scope of monitoring during construction and operation of the Proposed Development should be presented in the ES.
10	7.7.2	Traffic model	The Scoping Report states that a revision to the traffic model is currently being undertaken. For the avoidance of doubt, the assessment in the ES should be undertaken on the basis of an accurate and up to date traffic model.
11	7.7.2	Simple level assessment	The Scoping Report suggests that a simple level assessment of the impact of operational traffic on local and regional air quality is undertaken. The Applicant should ensure that the ES fully justifies its position that a simple level assessment is appropriate.

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12	7.7.13	Assessment methodology	The Scoping Report references a number of guidance documents which will inform the assessment methodology. The methodology should be agreed with the relevant local planning authorities and clearly explained in the ES, including an explanation of how significance of effect will be determined.
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4.2 Noise and vibration

(Scoping Report section 8)

Section 8.2 of the Scoping Report explains how the criteria from DMRB HD 213/11 will be used to define the ARN which will comprise the study area. The identification of the ARN will depend on the outputs of the revised traffic modelling made available for the strategic traffic model, and the study area will therefore be based on a combination of the footprint of the Proposed Development and the predicted change in traffic flows.

Section 8.7 explains that the assessment of noise and vibration and the method for determining significance of effect will be based on the guidance in DMRB HD 213/11. The assessment will also identify the Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level (SOAEL) and will use this threshold to determine the significance of noise levels. Effects from construction noise and vibration will be assessed using the methodology in British Standard BS5228:2009+A1:2004.

Two Noise Important Areas (NIAs) have been identified within the noise study area, as outlined in Paragraph 8.3.7 and depicted on Figure 1.2.

Section 8.4 of the Scoping Report identifies potential impacts during construction and operation on sensitive receptors. Noise impacts during construction could be caused by both construction activities and by changes in emissions from road traffic and non-road mobile machinery. Noise impacts during operation are identified as potentially being the generation of road traffic noise by changes in traffic flow on sensitive receptors adjacent to the boundary of the Proposed Development, and the reduction of traffic noise on sensitive receptors adjacent to the current A1 alignment, which will be bypassed by the Proposed Development.

No matters are proposed to be scoped out of the assessment.

	Para	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
1	8.2	Study area	The extent of the study area should be sufficient to include any consequential noise and vibration impacts arising from the Proposed Development, and should be agreed with the relevant local planning authorities. The ES should depict both the study area and the calculation area on a suitable plan.
2	8.3.2	Baseline	The Scoping Report states that baseline traffic data will be verified by a noise assessment survey, subject to consultation with Northumberland County Council, but gives no specific information on the survey. The ES should provide details on the survey undertaken, identifying the locations where monitoring has taken place, explaining how

			these locations were selected, confirming when the monitoring was undertaken, and highlighting the time period covered and the weather conditions at the time. The Applicant should discuss and make efforts to agree the approach with NCC. The ES should include a justification to support the extent of the survey effort.
3	8.3.4	Sensitive receptors	The Scoping Report lists various general categories of noise-sensitive receptor and states that sensitive receptors will be defined once the ARN is available. The ES should clearly identify, and include assessment of, impacts to sensitive ecological and human receptors. It should be clearly explained how these receptors have been identified and chosen.
4	8.3.6	Noise Important Areas (NIAs)	The NIAs located in the study area should be taken into account for the purposes of the assessment in the ES. The Scoping Report includes a plan detailing the locations of the NIAs, and this should also be included in the ES.
5	8.4.2	Potential effects	The Scoping Report does not provide details on construction activities. The ES should contain such information, providing details on the construction programme and anticipated working hours, including any night time working that may be required. Details on the type, number and location of plant and equipment should also be provided, including information on simultaneous working and the length of time plant and equipment is due to be operational. This information should be incorporated into the assessment of likely significant effects and the working hours used to inform the assessment should be consistent with those in the dDCO.
6	8.5	Mitigation	The Scoping Report states that appropriate mitigation will be determined once detailed assessments have been undertaken. The Applicant should ensure that the effectiveness of any proposed mitigation measures are thoroughly assessed in the ES.

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7	8.5	Monitoring	The Scoping Report at present does not reference monitoring of noise levels during construction or operation to ensure the appropriateness of mitigation. The need for and scope of monitoring during construction and operation of the Proposed Development should be presented in the ES.
8	8.7	Methodology	The Applicant should seek to agree the assessment methodology with NCC as stated in the DMRB.
9	8.7.6 – 8.7.12	Predicted vibration levels	The Scoping Report states that the assessment of vibration will be undertaken in accordance with DMRB 213/11, and BS5228:2009+A1:29014, but it does not stipulate the calculation methodology according to which vibration levels during construction and operation are to be predicted. The ES should provide information on the methodology used to calculate predicted vibration levels for the purposes of the assessment.
10	8.7.10 – 8.7.12	Assessment of construction effects	The Scoping report refers to BS5228:2009+A1:29014 for the assessment of potential noise and vibration during construction. However, the assessment thresholds set out in Tables 8.1 and 8.2 of the Scoping Report relate to effects at residential receptor locations only. The Applicant should ensure that impacts to sensitive ecological and human receptors are appropriately assessed in the ES.
11	8.7.18	SOAEL and Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level (LOAEL)	Reference is made to SOAEL in the Scoping Report. However, in order to be consistent with the Noise Policy Statement for England, both LOAEL and SOAEL should be defined for all of the construction and operational noise and vibration matters assessed. The ES should explain how LOAEL and SOAEL have been defined, which standards have been relied on and why these standards are appropriate. Mitigation measures should then be set out accordingly.
12	8.7.25	Assessment of long term noise level	The Scoping Report states that a detailed level assessment of operational effects will

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		changes	be undertaken in the ES. With regards to the assessment of long term noise level changes, the Scoping Report states that a comparison will be undertaken between the 'do minimum opening year 2023' and the 'do something design year 2038' scenarios. However, DMRB 213/11 states that for the assessment of long term noise level changes, an assessment between the 'do minimum opening year 2023' and the 'do minimum design year 2038' scenarios should also be undertaken.
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4.3 Landscape and visual

(Scoping Report section 9)

The study area will be based on a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) which will be generated based on a 4.5m high sided vehicle along the main line centreline plus the high points of overbridges. The study area will be widened out beyond the ZTV to 'include the whole of distinct areas of landscape potentially affected, not just part of these areas from which there may be visibility, in order to take account of potential indirect effects'. However paragraph 9.2.6 of the Scoping Report states that the ZTV will initially be defined within a 2km buffer of the centreline and is likely to be refined to 1km when identifying significant effects associated with specific visual receptors

The methodology to be used in the assessment is described in paras 9.7.4 – 9.7.20 of the Scoping Report with reference to IAN 135/10 and Guidance on Landscape and Visual Impact (3rd edition).

Potential impacts are defined in section 9.4 of the Scoping Report while section 9.6 describes the likely significant effects.

No matters have been proposed to be scoped out of the assessment.

	Para	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
1	9.2.2	Study area	The definition of the study area in the Scoping Report is confusing. It is not clear from the description in the Scoping Report if it will be based on the ZTV or the 1 or 2km buffers referred to in paragraph 9.2.6. The assessment should be based on the ZTV unless departures from it can be clearly explained and justified. Where professional judgement is applied to support a decision relating to the ZTV, the reasoning applicable to that judgement should be clearly explained. The ZTV and the actual study area used (if they are different) should be presented on figures in the relevant chapter of the ES.
	9.3.6	Assigning sensitivity to Landscape Character Areas	The Scoping Report notes that there are several areas covered by non-statutory landscape designation and states that the presence of these will be used to determine the sensitivity of Landscape Character Areas (LCA). LCAs which overlap with non-statutory landscape designations would be assigned a higher level of sensitivity than those that do not. This approach appears to conflate two different receptors and is likely to make it more difficult for the

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			reader to determine whether these non-statutory designated areas would be adversely affected. The ES should consider effects on non-statutory landscape designations and LCAs separately.
2	9.3.33/ Table 9-4	Assigning sensitivity to Public Rights of Way (PRoW)	The justification for assigning different levels of sensitivity to different PRoW is difficult to understand. Users of local footpaths are still likely to experience the view even if they are travelling from A to B rather than walking for recreation. The Inspectorate does not agree that different levels of sensitivity should be assigned to users of PRoW depending on their reasons for using a footpath. The ES should treat all users of PRoW as receptors of equal sensitivity.
3	9.3.35	Choice of receptors	The Applicant should make an effort to agree the list of residential and non-residential receptors for the visual impact assessment NCC.
4	9.3.44	Viewpoint locations	The intention to consult with NCC and Northumberland Park Authority is welcomed. The Applicant should make effort to agree the sensitivity to be assigned to a receptor with relevant authorities.
5	9.3.46	Visual Effect Schedules	The Scoping Report states that Visual Effect Schedules (VES) will be produced for all properties within 1km of the centreline of the Proposed Development but all remaining properties will be excluded from detailed assessment. The Scoping Report does not include any justification for this approach. The ES should either include VES for all affected properties or provide clear justification to support the exclusion of affected properties.
6	9.4	Potential impacts	It is noted that there is no intention to provide lighting on the road at present. If this decision is reversed or if the dDCO would permit lighting then the ES should contain an assessment of the effect of night-time lighting.
7	9.7.5	Landscape strategy	It is noted that that a landscape strategy

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			will be developed to avoid, mitigate or enhance the road landscape. The assessments in the ES must make it clear which measures have been taken into account in the assessment of significant effects. The ES should include a clear distinction between measures intended to avoid or reduce adverse effects and those that will deliver enhancement.
8	9.7.9	Night time assessments	The Scoping Report states that an assessment of night-time effects will be undertaken for the operational phase of the Proposed Development. If the construction phase is likely to involve working at night then a night time assessment should also be undertaken for the construction phase.

4.4 Cultural heritage

(Scoping Report section 10)

The study area has been defined in the Scoping Report as 300m from the footprint of the Proposed Development for non-designated assets and 1km for statutory designated assets, conservation areas and historic landscapes (paragraph 10.2.1).

Historical features identified within the study area include one Grade I listed building, two Grade II* listed buildings and 42 Grade II listed buildings. Non-designated historic assets include one site (St Cuthbert's Chapel) which may be of national importance. Records of findspots suggest the potential for previously unknown archaeological remains associated with the Prehistoric period.

The methodology that the assessment will be based on is described in section 10.7 of the Scoping Report. Details of the field surveys expected to be undertaken are provided in section 10.5.

Potential impacts are described in section 10.4 of the Scoping Report and include potential direct loss of and changes to the setting of historic features. Likely significant effects are described in section 10.6 of the Scoping Report.

The Inspectorate has provided comments on matters that the Applicant has set out as being scoped out of the ES.

ID	Para	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
1	10.7.2	World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens and Historic Battlefields	None of these features have been recorded within the study area defined in the Scoping Report and so have been scoped out of further assessment. The Inspectorate has identified some concerns regarding the proposed study area for the assessment (see below). The Inspectorate also notes that the Scoping Report indicates the footprint of the Proposed Development is likely to alter (paragraph 1.2.11). Having had regard to these points the Inspectorate does not agree to scope these matters out.
	Para	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
	10.2.1	Study area	The Scoping Report states that the study areas are based on accepted best practice and the scale and nature of the development. The best practice in question has not been identified and the Scoping Report does not explain how the scale and

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			nature of the development justifies the definition of the study area. On the basis of the evidence provided in the Scoping Report the Inspectorate is not satisfied that sufficient justification has been provided for the extent of the study area. The ES must clearly justify the definition of the finalised study area. This point is also made by Historic England (His En) in their response in Appendix 2 of this Opinion.
3	10.5.4	Removal of important hedgerows	The Scoping Report states that archaeological mitigation will be devised where sections of field boundaries that are protected under the Hedgerow Regulations are due to be removed. It is not clear however how these field boundaries would be identified in the first place. The ES should explain how these hedgerows are identified as well as describing the proposed mitigation.
4	10.4.7	Operational effects on buried archaeological remains	Operational effects on archaeological remains have been excluded. The ES should assess the potential effect on the setting of buried archaeological remains from the operation of the Proposed Development. It should also assess the potential impact from alterations to drainage patterns on the survival of buried archaeological remains as advised by His En in Appendix 2 of this Opinion.
5	10.7.5 – 10.7.6	Methodology	The methodology described in paragraph 10.7.6 of the Scoping Report refers to a detailed level desk-based assessment. However section 10.5 of the Scoping Report refers to a programme of field investigation. It is difficult therefore to understand exactly what is being proposed for the archaeological assessment and how it will be reported in the ES. The ES should base its assessment on both desk studies and the field investigations as appropriate. The ES should provide a justification for the choice of methods and area covered by the field investigations.
6	10.5.7 – 10.5.10	Mitigation for the potential impact upon settings	The description of mitigation proposals is limited to a general discussion of good practice rather than a clear explanation of

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			how mitigation will be developed. The ES must clearly explain how mitigation proposals have been developed and distinguish between measures to avoid or reduce harm and those which will provide enhancements.
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4.5 Biodiversity

(Scoping Report section 11)

The study area is based on the guidance from DMRB and includes set distances taken from the footprint of the Proposed Development (see paragraph 11.2.1 - 2):

- survey area for Phase 1 survey – 500m;
- survey area for great crested newt – 500m
- potential bat roosts – 100m
- protected and noteworthy species – 2km;
- bat species – up to 5km;
- statutory and non-statutory designated sites of national importance – 2km; and
- European sites up to 10km and 30km for bats which are designated features of Special Areas of Conservation.

Two SSSI have been identified within the study area (Longhorsley Moor and the River Coquet and Coquet Valley Woodlands) and several Local Nature Reserves (LNR) and Local Wildlife Sites (LWS).

Table 11-3 of the Scoping Report summarises the guidance relied on for specific survey methodologies. The general approach that will be used to identify and evaluate effects on ecological receptors is described in paragraphs 11.7.10 – 11.7.15 of the Scoping Report.

Potential impacts from the Proposed Development are described in Section 11.4 of the Scoping Report. They include both direct habitat loss and indirect impacts such as disturbance from noise, vibration and lighting.

The Inspectorate has provided comments below on matters that the Applicant has set out as being scoped out of the ES.

ID	Para	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
1	11.7.1	All European sites and statutory/non-statutory designated sites other than the River Coquet and Coquet Valley Woodlands SSSI and the Coquet River Felton Park LWS	The study area described in the Scoping Report simply relies on set distances from the Proposed Development footprint. No justification is provided as to why the set distances reflect the likely zone of influence applicable to the anticipated impacts from the Proposed Development. In addition paragraph 1.2.11 states that the footprint of the Proposed Development has been updated from that shown in the Scoping Report, making it unclear exactly what the study area is.

			The Inspectorate does not agree that these matters can be scoped out in part because there remains some uncertainty regarding the extent of the Proposed Development.
2	11.7.3	Ancient woodland over 50m from the footprint of the Proposed Development.	The justification for exclusion of effects over 50m relies on the standing advice from NE and the Forestry Commission (FC). However the standing advice advises this as a mitigation measure rather than a statement that there will be not effects on ancient woodland beyond these distances. Effects from changes in air quality or hydrology for instance could extend over 50m from the footprint of the Proposed Development. The Inspectorate does not agree on the basis of the evidence presented in the Scoping Report that ancient woodland over 50m from the footprint can be scoped out of further assessment. The assessment of effects on ancient woodland in the ES must adequately reflect the ecological zone of influence of the Proposed Development and explain how this has been determined.
3	11.7.4	Direct loss of priority habitats other than arable field margins, hedgerows, inland road, lowland heath, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, rivers and streams and standing water	Only the priority habitats known to occur within the footprint of the Proposed Development will be assessed for impacts from direct loss. The Inspectorate agrees that impacts from direct loss on other priority habitats can be scoped out.
4	11.7.6	Effects on hazel dormouse	Effects have been scoped out on the grounds that no records were found for the study area during the desk study and the study area falls outside the known UK distribution for the species. The Inspectorate agrees that there significant effect to this species is unlikely and that the assessment of impacts to this species can be scope out of the ES.
	Para	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
5	11.2	Study area	As noted above, the Scoping Report does not explain how the various set distances used to decide the study area for different

			receptors represents the zone of influence of the Proposed Development. The study areas in the ES should be established on the basis of the extent of the likely impacts.
6	Table 11-3	Extent of survey for great crested newts	Twenty two ponds within the study area were identified during the Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessment as having potential to support great crested newts. Of these ponds, eDNA tests returned one positive result, fourteen negative results and five ponds were not surveyed. The Scoping Report does not explain why five ponds were not surveyed or why only twenty out of twenty two ponds have been accounted for. The surveys in the ES should cover all the potential ponds for great crested newt within the study area or provide justification on ecological grounds as to why some have been excluded.
7	Table 11-3	Terrestrial invertebrates	It is not clear from the row in Table 11-3 which refers to terrestrial invertebrates whether a survey will actually be carried out. Given the presence of a Species of Principal Importance and the statement that that the study area may contain habitats which support protected and/ or notable species, the ES should include assessments of effects on invertebrates where significant effects are likely.
8	Table 11-3	Brown hare	Table 11-3 of the Scoping Report notes that 14 records of brown hare were identified in the desk study and the farmland throughout the study area has the potential to support hare. However it is not clear from the table if any surveys have been undertaken or are planned for this species. Given the potential for effects on brown hare and in view of the fact that they are a Species of Principal Importance, the ES should include assessments of effects on hare unless otherwise agreed with relevant stakeholders.
9	11.4.3	Potential impacts during operation	It is noted that there is no intention to provide lighting on the road at present. If this decision is reversed or if the dDCO would permit lighting then the ES should

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			contain an assessment of the effect of night-time lighting.
10	11.5.5	Mitigation measures for ancient woodland	The measures outlined in this paragraph of the Scoping Report could constitute mitigation but at least one of the measures (land purchase for woodland replacement planting) appears to constitute compensation rather than mitigation. The ES should clearly define and distinguish between mitigation and compensation measures. This point is also made in the Forestry Commission's response in Appendix 2 of this report.
11	11.5.6	Additional botanical surveys of ancient woodland	The Scoping Report identifies a potential need for additional botanical surveys 'moving forward in order to address the potential impacts and influence mitigation proposals'. The Scoping Report does not explain at what stage of the Proposed Development these surveys would be carried out. Any mitigation measures presented in the ES should be based on a full suite of relevant surveys.
12	11.5	Mitigation measures for fish	The Environment Agency (EA) has advised (see Appendix 2 of this report) that fish passages should be installed on new culverts. The Applicant is advised to make efforts to agree any mitigation measures required to maintain fish passage along watercourses with the EA.
13	11.8.3	Assessment of Important Ecological Features	The Scoping Report states that where full ecological baseline information cannot be obtained due to access, the precautionary principle will be applied to any assessment of important ecological features. There is no explanation of how this would be done or how this would affect the scope of the assessment in the ES. The assessments in the ES must be based on adequate desk study and field surveys, so that the ExA can be confident their recommendations are based on sound evidence.

4.6 Road drainage and the water environment

(Scoping Report section 12)

The study area covers surface water features up to 'a minimum of 0.5km' from the Proposed Development. Features that are in 'hydraulic connectivity' with the study area such as surface water abstractions and downstream watercourses up to 1km from the Proposed Development but may extend further if risks to sensitive features are identified. Groundwater features up to distances of (approximately) 0.5km and groundwater abstractions up to 1km will also be included in the study area.

The methodology will be undertaken in accordance with guidance from DMRB Volume 11 Section 3 Part 10 and the Water Framework Directive (WFD) which will result in a detailed qualitative assessment involving a desk based review of existing information and site visits. A standalone Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) will also be produced in accordance with guidance from the NPS NN.

The Applicant has utilised DMRB Volume 11 Section 3 Part 10 Annex IV in order to determine the importance of receptors, the magnitude of effect and the significance of impact on a receptor.

The potential impacts during the construction phase include; increasing the sedimentation and pollution levels of surface and groundwater, impacting the hydromorphology, chemical and ecological quality of watercourses and increasing the risk of flooding.

The potential impacts during the operation phase include; polluted surface water runoff impacting surface and groundwater, permanent impacts to hydromorphological and ecological quality of water features, permanent impacts to catchment hydrology, increased volume of surface runoff and an increase in flood risk.

The Inspectorate has provided comments below on matters that the Applicant has proposed to scope out of the ES.

ID	Para	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
1	12.7.2	Surface and groundwater features outside of the 500m study area or not hydraulically connected to the study area	The Inspectorate agrees that surface and groundwater features beyond the study area which are not hydraulically connected to the Proposed Development or likely to experience impacts from it can be scoped out of further assessment.
2	12.7.3	Impacts to groundwater quantity, groundwater flows and the release of	As this matter is included within the Geology and Soils aspect chapter, the Inspectorate agrees this matter can be scoped out of this Aspect chapter within ES.

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		contaminants	
3	12.7.1 – 12.7.3	Impacts on ecological status of water bodies	The Inspectorate notes that ecological impacts will be included within the Biodiversity aspect chapter and therefore the Inspectorate agrees this matter can be scoped out of this chapter within the ES.
	Para	Other points	Inspectorate’s comments
4	12.2.1 – 12.2.2 – 12.2.3	Study area	The Scoping Report has not clearly defined the study area as ‘up to a minimum of 0.5km’ and ‘approximately 1km’ do not explicitly state size of the study area. This makes it difficult to understand how the study area will actually be defined and whether it captures the area affected by the Proposed Development. Within the ES the study area should be clearly defined, justified and reflect the anticipated extent of potential impacts.
5	12.3.1	Baseline condition	The Applicant repeatedly references Figure 1.2 Environmental Constraint Plan throughout the chapter. This figure does not; clearly distinguish between Flood Zone 2 and Flood Zone 3, or show the locations of groundwater features, or label the medium to high value receptors. These matters should be presented in a figure within the ES.
6	12.5.3- 12.5.4	Design, mitigation and enhancement measures – operation	The ES should include a figure showing the location of proposed attenuation ponds, watercourse channels, watercourse crossings and other mitigation measures.
7	12.5.3	Design, mitigation and enhancement measures – operation	The Applicant should avoid describing mitigation measures as ‘potential’ and instead should explicitly state in the ES which mitigation measures will be included within the design of the Proposed Development. The Applicant’s attention is drawn to the recommendations from the EA in Appendix 2 of this Opinion on the use of balancing ponds and wetland filter systems to protect the River Coquet. The Applicant is advised to make efforts to agree mitigation measures with the EA and NE as far as possible.

8	12.7.12	Assessment methodology	<p>The Scoping Report states that the Proposed Development would introduce a linear barrier and will divert the natural flow of water affecting the baseflow of rivers. The ES must provide evidence that this will not impede water flow as this a mandatory requirement stated within paragraph 2.37 DMRB Volume 11 Section 3 Part 10.</p> <p>The Applicant should also ensure that the assessment of hydromorphological effects in the ES considers the effects from both temporary and permanent works. The Applicant should seek to agree the methodology to be used in the assessment with the EA as far as is possible.</p>
9	12.7.18	Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessment	<p>The intention to provide a standalone WFD assessment with the findings presented in the ES is welcomed. The Applicant is advised to respond to the points raised by the EA in their response in Appendix 2 of this Opinion.</p>

4.7 Geology and soils

(Scoping Report section 13)

The study area has been defined as the footprint of the Proposed Development and a buffer of 250m beyond.

Paragraphs 13.7.4 - 13.7.7 of the Scoping Report describe the work that will be undertaken, the scope of the assessment and the guidance documents that will be used to inform the assessment. Tables 13.3 and 13.4 describe the criteria that will be used to evaluate the sensitivity of receptors and the magnitude of impacts to determine the significance of the effects of the Proposed Development.

Potential impacts are described in section 13.4 of the Scoping Report. They include the loss of agricultural soil and effects on human health

The Inspectorate has provided comments below on matters that the Applicant has set out as being scoped out of the ES.

ID	Para	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
1	13.7.1	Effect on Statutory and Non Statutory sites of geologic importance.	The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the ES due to no statutory or non-statutory sites of geological importance being situated within the proposed study area or likely to experience impacts from the Proposed Development.
	Para	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
2	13.3.1	Baseline Conditions	The Applicant states only a summary of the baseline description is included within the Scoping Report and that a full description is included within the Preliminary Sources Study Report (PSSR). The Applicant should ensure a full description of baseline conditions is included within the ES. The Applicant may wish to consider doing this by including the PSSR in the ES.
3	13.2.1	Baseline Conditions	The Scoping Report states that the Environmental Constraints Plan Figure 1.2 summarises the baseline conditions. However, Figure 1.2 does not show any baseline conditions discussed within this aspect chapter. The ES should include figures that show the locations of the geology, mining hazards, hydrogeology, hydrology, unexploded ordnance (UXO)

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			potential sources of contaminations and potential environmental receptors.
4	13.3.2	Soil quality	Agricultural land quality grade 3 is subdivided into grades 3a and 3b with grade 3a being considered Best and Most Versatile Land. The Applicant should ensure that agricultural land grade 3 is subdivided into grade 3a and 3b within the ES.
5	Table 13-2	Potential environmental receptors	The Scoping Report explains that the criteria used to determine the potential environmental receptors is 'based on professional experience'. A detailed explanation of how the receptors are determined has not been included. The ES should include these details and justify the criteria used to determine the sensitivity of the receptors.
6	Table 13-2	Potential environmental receptors	The Inspectorate is concerned that the River Coquet and Coquet Valley Woodlands SSSI has not been considered as a potential environmental receptor in the assessment of impacts to geology and soils. The biodiversity chapter does not explicitly identify potential impacts on the SSSI from the release of contaminants during construction. The ES should either address any potential significant effects or explain why such effects can be excluded.
7	13.6.1	Likely significant effects	The Scoping Report states that the use of permanent and temporary mitigation measures will be sufficient to avoid significant effects. The Inspectorate does not feel that the Scoping Report provides sufficient detail on either the nature of the likely effects or the mitigation proposals to justify this statement. The ES must contain the evidence required to support its conclusions.
8	13.7.7	Scope of assessment	The Applicant's attention is drawn to the advice from the Coal Authority on the need to provide a Coal Mining Risk Assessment or equivalent. The ES should include a detailed assessment of the route and potential risks from past mining activity and any remedial measures which may be required. The Applicant is advised to have regard to the advice from the Coal

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			Authority in Appendix 2 of this Opinion in compiling the information.
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4.8 People and communities

(Scoping Report section 14)

The study area varies depending on the receptor being considered, as explained in section 14.2 of the Scoping Report. A study area of 500m will be used to assess Non-Motorised Users (NMU), and recreational facilities. The existing A1 and links in proximity to the A1 will be the study area for vehicle travellers. The study area for community amenity and severance is Morpeth and Felton, and for physical assets the study area is the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Development. Finally, the local authority area of Northumberland will be used as the study area for economy and employment.

Section 14.7 of the Scoping Report describes the proposed assessment methodology. The methods used will follow the updated topic structure contained within IAN 125/15, which combines the published guidance within DMRB Volume 11 – Section 3, Part 6 (Land Use); Section 3, Part 8 (Pedestrians, Cyclists, Equestrians and Community Effects) and Section 3, Part 9 (Vehicle Travellers) into one chapter – ‘People and Communities’. A simple level assessment will be undertaken for people and communities in line with the DMRB guidance stated above.

A detailed agricultural impact assessment will be undertaken to inform the assessment of disruption of commercial assets. The remaining assessments will be desk based and qualitative with the assessment criteria informed by DMRB. Consultation will be undertaken to inform the assessment on recreational activities.

The Scoping Report considers the potential effects from construction and operation of the Proposed Development on:

- effects on PRoW;
- traffic, delay time and driver stress;
- community severance;
- effects on the amenity of recreational resource;
- disruption of commercial assets; and
- economy and labour employment during construction.

The effects listed above are also considered to be potential effects on human health.

The Inspectorate has provided comments below on matters that the Applicant has proposed to scope out of the ES.

ID	Para	Applicant’s proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate’s comments
1	14.7.1	Community land and development land	The Inspectorate agrees that assessment of community land and development land can be scoped out of the assessment, on the basis that no community land or development land will be affected by the Proposed Development. However, if through

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			the iterative design process, community land or development land is likely to be significantly affected by the Proposed Development, then an assessment should be provided in the ES.
2	14.7.1	Driver views	<p>The Scoping Report states that there is potential for the Proposed Development to change the view from the road for users of the A1. With the implementation of mitigation measures (particularly in relation to planting) any effects are not likely to be significant. However, paragraph 14.5.4 states that in relation to vehicle travellers no further mitigation is required.</p> <p>The Inspectorate is therefore unclear what the scope of the assessment is and exactly what mitigation has been taken into account in the decision to scope out effects on driver views. Given these concerns, the Inspectorate is not convinced that the potential for significant effects can be scoped out of the assessment.</p>
3	14.7.1	Economy and labour market during operation	The Inspectorate agrees that effects on economy and employment during operation are not likely to be significant and can be scoped out of the assessment.
	Para	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
4	14.2.7	Study areas	The ES should include a clear justification for each of the chosen study areas. The justification should be supported (where relevant) with corresponding figures to aid interpretation.
5	14.3.1	Baseline conditions	The Applicant is advised to include plans and figures to depict the location of receptors included within the assessment to aid understanding, such as community facilities, in addition to PRowS which are depicted in Figure 1.2 of the Scoping Report.
6	14.3.3	PRow	The Scoping Report states that PRow in the study area do not form a coherent network. The Applicant should consider reduction of existing severance within the Proposed Development and assessment.
7	14.3.7 -	NMU Surveys	Table 14-2 summarises NMU movements within the study area as a result of surveys

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	14.3.8		undertaken in July- September 2016. The details of the surveys should be provided within the ES along with a justification that the NMU survey is still fit for purpose. The Applicant should consider whether further surveys are required, given the length of time that has passed since the original surveys were completed.
8	14.4.1	Diversions	<p>The Scoping Report notes that temporary or permanent closures or diversions of footpaths may be required.</p> <p>It should be clear in the ES how long any temporary diversions are anticipated to be in place and how the diversions would be secured through the DCO or other mechanism.</p>
9	n/a	Assessment criteria	<p>The Scoping Report states that a three point descriptive scale (Slight, Moderate, Severe) will be used for the assessment of NMU, vehicle travellers, community amenity and severance, and physical assets in accordance with DMRB.</p> <p>However, no further methodology or significance criteria has been provided, therefore the Inspectorate is unable to provide comment on the suitability of the criteria to be used.</p> <p>The people and communities aspect chapter should clearly state how significance has been determined for all effects assessed, and where professional judgement has been applied.</p>

4.8 Material resources

(Scoping Report section 15)

There are two study areas for the assessment of material resources. Study area one consists of the Proposed Development red line boundary and will be used to assess the material usage and waste arising generated from the construction phase of the development. The second study area comprises the North East Region (Northumberland, Tyne & Wear, Durham, Tees Valley) and will be used to assess the Proposed Development's impact on waste infrastructure.

A detailed level assessment will be undertaken in accordance with guidance from IAN 153/11, NPS NN and DMRB Volume 11 Section 2 Part 5. The assessment will include the environmental effects of the consumption of material resources, generation and use of arisings recovered from the Proposed Development and the production and disposal of waste to landfill. The methodology that will be used in order to undertake the assessment is not outlined within this chapter.

The potential impacts associated with the use of material resources include the depletion of local and regional natural and manufactured resources, and degrading the natural environment. The potential impacts associated with the production and disposal of waste include the reduction in landfill capacity.

The Inspectorate has provided comments below on matters that the Applicant has proposed to scope out of the ES.

ID	Para	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
1	15.7.2	Lifecycle assessment of materials, site arisings and waste	It is noted that IAN 153/11 states that the lifecycles stages of extraction of raw materials and the manufacturing of products is outside the scope of the EIA. Given that the ES will cover the consumption of material resources, the Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out. However paragraph 16.2.1 states that the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with the manufacturing and disposal of materials will be considered. This apparent contradiction should be resolved in the ES.
2	15.7.2	Consumption of material resources and site arisings and generation of waste post operating year 1	As only routine maintenance is anticipated to occur post operation year 1 and the Applicant states that 'current routine operation and maintenance works on the existing A1 assets generate negligible volumes of site arisings', no likely significant affects are anticipated to occur from the consumption of material resources, site arisings and generation of waste post operating year 1. Therefore, the

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			Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
3	15.7.2	Impacts and effects of transporting material resources and waste to and from site	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out as it will be assessed through other aspect chapters. The other chapters include; Air Quality, People and Communities and Water and Drainage. However, this matter has not been addressed in these chapters and therefore the Inspectorate does not agree that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
4	15.7.2	Contamination and resource sterilisation	The Scoping Report states that this matter is discussed within the Geology and Soils aspect chapter. The Inspectorate agrees that the sterilisation of agricultural soils and the risk of contamination affecting controlled waters or human health can be scoped out as these are the matters are to be assessed in the Geology and Soils chapter. Any other matters relating to contamination and resource sterilisation should still be covered in the ES.
	Para	Other Points	Inspectorate's comments
5	15.3.1	Baseline condition	The Scoping report states that 'some materials' will be required and 'some waste' will be produced but does not include any specific detail regarding the quantities and type of materials and waste. The ES should include sufficient detail to ensure there is a robust description of baseline conditions within the ES.
6	15.3.22	Sensitivity of receptor	The Applicant states that professional judgement has been used to determine the sensitivity of receptors but has not included the criteria used to determine the sensitivity. The ES should include a full explanation of how the sensitivity or receptors is determined.

4.9 Climate

(Scoping Report section 16)

The study area for the effects of the Proposed Development on climate is defined in section 16.2 of the Scoping Report, with different study areas proposed for each assessment within the aspect chapter. The study area for the greenhouse gas assessment includes any increase or decrease in emissions from the Proposed Development such as, manufacturing of materials for the scheme. The climate resilience assessment will comprise the footprint of the Proposed Development, and will use UK Climate Projections 2009 which uses a 25km² grid.

The greenhouse gas assessment will be based on TAG Unit A3 Environmental Impact Appraisal (DfT, 2015) Chapter 4 Greenhouse Gases, and PAS 2080:2016 Carbon management in infrastructure guidance.

Potential impacts are described in section 16.4 of the Scoping Report. They are the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the Proposed Development, and the potential impacts from to the Proposed Development from climate events which are set out in Table 16-2 of the Scoping Report.

The Inspectorate has provided comments below on matters that the Applicant has proposed to scope out of the ES.

ID	Para	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
1	Table 16-4	Emissions from Information Technology Services during the operation and maintenance phase	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out operation and maintenance as emission sources, as no information technology services are proposed. The Inspectorate agrees that emissions from information technology services and lighting can be scoped out of the assessment, on the basis that they are not proposed within the Proposed Development.
2	Table 16-4	Emissions from replacement	This has been excluded as it overlaps with repair. As repair has been scoped into the assessment the Inspectorate agrees that replacement can be excluded.
3	Table 16-4; and 16.7.5	Decommissioning	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out decommissioning of the Proposed Development, inclusive of deconstruction, transportation of waste arisings, waste processing for recovery, and disposal. The justification given is that decommissioning would take place decades into the future, and there is uncertainty regarding the decommissioning process and associated

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			<p>emissions.</p> <p>The Inspectorate agrees that decommissioning can be scoped out of the assessment as there is insufficient detail at this stage to provide an accurate assessment and it is uncertain what scale of decommissioning works would be.</p>
4	Table 16-6	Resilience of drainage to climate change	<p>The Scoping Report proposes to scope out drainage within the assessment of climate resilience and the following sub-matters: surface water drainage systems; cross-culverts; road-edge drainage; attenuation; outfalls; and drainage ditches. The justification given is that the climate effects on drainage will be assessed within road drainage and the water environment aspect chapter of the ES. However, drainage ditches have been identified in Table 16-5 and scoped into the assessment.</p> <p>The Inspectorate agrees with the justification given, but advises that the clear cross reference to assessment within road drainage and the water environment aspect chapter should be provided within the climate aspect chapter.</p>
5	Table 16-6	Resilience of incident management to climate change	<p>The Scoping Report proposes to scope out incident management within the assessment of climate resilience and the following sub-matters within incident management: breakdowns; road user incidents/ accidents; and third party incidents. The justification given is that these matters are outside of the scope of the design works.</p> <p>However it is not clear what this statement means. The ES should either address this point or provide a clear justification for not considering this matter.</p>
	Para	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
6	16.2.3	UKCP09 projections	<p>The Scoping Report states the climate resilience assessment will utilise UK Climate Projections (UKCP09). As set out in the NPS NN the assessment of potential impacts of climate change should take into account the latest UK Climate Projections available at the time. The assessment in the ES should</p>

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			therefore take account of the UKCP18 projections if these become available before the ES is finalised.
7	16.4.6; Table 16-2; and 16.6.1	Potential impacts	<p>The Scoping Report states that potential significant effects will be identified during the environmental assessment, and that the potential effects provided in Table 16-2 in relation to the climate resilience are not exhaustive.</p> <p>All potential effects considered in relation to the climate aspect chapter should be clearly outlined in the ES, providing justification for scoping additionally identified effects in or out of the assessment. The methodology to assess these effects should be clearly provided in the ES.</p>
8	16.7.7	Guidance	<p>The Scoping Report states that Transport Analysis Guidance (WebTag) Chapter 4: Greenhouse Gases will be used to inform the greenhouse gas assessment.</p> <p>The Inspectorate notes that this guidance is an 'appraisal methodology' intended for the development of business cases, applicable to highways and public transport interventions and not necessarily for the purposes of undertaking assessment for the ES. The Applicant should take care to ensure that the methodology applied is sufficient to identify and assess the likely significant effects from the Proposed Development.</p>
9	16.7.10	Industry recognised calculation tool	<p>The Scoping Report states that emission calculations will be completed within an industry recognised carbon calculation tool. However, no further details have been provided, so the Inspectorate is unable to provide any comments on its suitability. The ES should clearly explain the calculation tool that is finally used and provide a justification for its selection.</p>
10	16.8.2	Assumptions	<p>It has been estimated that materials for the construction of the Proposed Development will be transported 20km. The Inspectorate expects further explanation and justification for such assumptions within the resulting ES.</p>

11	16.8.5	Guidance	<p>The Scoping Report states that no guidance currently exists to determine significance for the climate aspect chapter. No methodology or significance criteria has been provided, therefore the Inspectorate is unable to provide comment on the suitability of the criteria to be used.</p> <p>The climate aspect chapter should clearly state how significance has been determined, and where professional judgement has been applied.</p>
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4.10 Assessment of cumulative effects

(Scoping Report section 17)

Individual study areas will be defined for each aspect of the environment, based on guidance in DMRB. The developments for potential cumulative effects are those that already have planning permission, are 'in proximity' to the Proposed Development or are considered likely to result in environmental effects that could act in synergy with effects arising from the Proposed Development (paragraph 17.2.2). In addition, 'reasonably foreseeable' projects will also be considered, as defined in accordance with DMRB guidance (HD 205/08) and the Inspectorate's Advice Note 17.

The spatial extent for the review of planning applications is defined as the footprint of the Proposed Development plus 500m for non-traffic related impacts. The Scoping Report confirms that ARN will be used for aspect assessments where traffic influences the potential impacts.

The proposed methodology for the assessment is described in section 17.3 of the Scoping Report. The approach will be based on professional judgement with reference to the guidance in DMRB Volume 11 Section 2 Part 5, the NPSNN and the Inspectorate's advice note on cumulative effects assessment.

The assessment of effects considers 'combined effects' (accumulated effects from a single project) and 'cumulative effects' (cumulative effects from other projects which interact with effects from the Proposed Development).

No matters are proposed to be scoped out of the assessment.

ID	Para	Other points	Inspectorate's comments
1	17.2	Study area	While it is noted that the distance of 500m for non-traffic related impacts is based on guidance in the DMRB, it is not clear which aspects or matters would be classed as non-traffic related. In addition the Scoping Report does not explain why a distance of 500m would be sufficient to capture all the potential interactions with other projects which could lead to significant effects. The ES must provide a clear justification for the adequacy of the study area. The Applicant may find the approach described in the Inspectorate's Advice Note 17 helpful.
2	17.3.6	Significance criteria	The Scoping Report explains that criteria to determine the significance of effects will be based on Table 2.6 of DMRB HA 205/08 and professional judgement. The ES must clearly explain where professional judgement has been applied and the

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			reasoning behind it.
3	17.41	Assessment of combined effects	The receptors considered will only include those that are likely to experience potential residual significant effects from more than one topic area. This appears to ignore the possibility that interaction between non-significant residual effects could also lead to a significant combined effect.

5. INFORMATION SOURCES

5.0.1 The Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website includes links to a range of advice regarding the making of applications and environmental procedures, these include:

- Pre-application prospectus³
- Planning Inspectorate advice notes⁴:
 - Advice Note Three: EIA Notification and Consultation;
 - Advice Note Four: Section 52: Obtaining information about interests in land (Planning Act 2008);
 - Advice Note Five: Section 53: Rights of Entry (Planning Act 2008);
 - Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: Process, Preliminary Environmental Information and Environmental Statements;
 - Advice Note Nine: Using the 'Rochdale Envelope';
 - Advice Note Ten: Habitat Regulations Assessment relevant to nationally significant infrastructure projects (includes discussion of Evidence Plan process);
 - Advice Note Twelve: Transboundary Impacts
 - Advice Note Seventeen: Cumulative Effects Assessment; and
 - Advice Note Eighteen: The Water Framework Directive.

5.0.2 Applicants are also advised to review the list of information required to be submitted within an application for Development as set out in The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (as amended).

³ The Planning Inspectorate's pre-application services for applicants. Available from: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/pre-application-service-for-applicants/>

⁴ The Planning Inspectorate's series of advice notes in relation to the Planning Act 2008 process. Available from: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>

APPENDIX 1: CONSULTATION BODIES FORMALLY CONSULTED

TABLE A1: PRESCRIBED CONSULTATION BODIES⁵

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
The Health and Safety Executive	Health and Safety Executive
The National Health Service Commissioning Board	NHS England
The relevant Clinical Commissioning Group	Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group
Natural England	Natural England
The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England	Historic England - North East
The relevant fire and rescue authority	Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service
The relevant police and crime commissioner	Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioners
The relevant parish council(s) or, where the application relates to land [in] Wales or Scotland, the relevant community council	Tritlington and West Chevington Parish Council.
	Hebron Parish Council
	Thirston Parish Council
	Felton Parish Council
	Newton-on-the-Moor and Swarland Parish Council
The Environment Agency	The Environment Agency - North East
The Equality and Human Rights Commission	Equality and Human Rights Commission

⁵ Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (the 'APFP Regulations')

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
The Civil Aviation Authority	Civil Aviation Authority
The Relevant Highways Authority	Northumberland County Council
The relevant strategic highways company	Highways England - Yorkshire and North East
The Coal Authority	The Coal Authority
Public Health England, an executive agency of the Department of Health	Public Health England
The Crown Estate Commissioners	The Crown Estate
The Forestry Commission	Forestry Commission - Yorkshire and North East
The Secretary of State for Defence	Ministry of Defence

TABLE A2: RELEVANT STATUTORY UNDERTAKERS⁶

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
The relevant Clinical Commissioning Group	Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group
The relevant NHS Foundation Trust	North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
Railways	Highways England Historical Railways Estate
Civil Aviation Authority	Civil Aviation Authority
Licence Holder (Chapter 1 Of Part 1 Of Transport Act 2000)	NATS En-Route Safeguarding
Universal Service Provider	Royal Mail Group
Homes and Communities Agency	Homes and Communities Agency

⁶ 'Statutory Undertaker' is defined in the APFP Regulations as having the same meaning as in Section 127 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended)

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STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
The relevant Environment Agency	Environment Agency - North East
The relevant water and sewage undertaker	Northumbrian Water
The relevant public gas transporter	Cadent Gas Limited
	Energetics Gas Limited
	Energy Assets Pipelines Limited
	ES Pipelines Ltd
	ESP Connections Ltd
	ESP Networks Ltd
	ESP Pipelines Ltd
	Fulcrum Pipelines Limited
	GTC Pipelines Limited
	Independent Pipelines Limited
	Indigo Pipelines Limited
	Quadrant Pipelines Limited
	National Grid Gas Plc
	National Grid Gas Plc
	Scotland Gas Networks Plc
Southern Gas Networks Plc	
Northern Gas Networks Limited	
The relevant electricity distributor with CPO Powers	Energetics Electricity Limited
	Energy Assets Power Networks
	ESP Electricity Limited
	G2 Energy IDNO Limited
	Harlaxton Energy Networks Limited

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
	Independent Power Networks Limited
	Leep Electricity Networks Limited
	The Electricity Network Company Limited
	UK Power Distribution Limited
	Utility Assets Limited
	Utility Distribution Networks Limited
	Northern Powergrid (Northeast) Limited
The relevant electricity transmitter with CPO Powers	National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc
	National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc

TABLE A3: SECTION 43 CONSULTEES (FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 42(1)(B))⁷

LOCAL AUTHORITY⁸
Carlisle City Council
Eden District Council
Northumberland National Park Authority
Northumberland County Council
Newcastle City Council
North Tyneside District Council
Gateshead District Council

⁷ Sections 43 and 42(B) of the PA2008

⁸ As defined in Section 43(3) of the PA2008

LOCAL AUTHORITY⁸
Durham County Council
Cumbria County Council

TABLE A4: NON-PRESCRIBED CONSULTATION BODIES

ORGANISATION
North East Combined Authority

APPENDIX 2: RESPONDENTS TO CONSULTATION AND COPIES OF REPLIES

Consultation bodies who replied by the statutory deadline:

The Coal Authority
Cumbria County Council
Environment Agency – North East
ESP Gas Group Limited
Forestry Commission – Yorkshire and North East
Health and Safety Executive
Highways England – Yorkshire and North East
Historic England – North East
Human Rights Commission
National Grid
NATS En-Route Safeguarding
Newtown on the Moor Parish Council
North Tyneside Council
Public Health England
Royal Mail Group



The Coal
Authority



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



RTPI
Learning Partner

200 Lichfield Lane
Berry Hill
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG18 4RG

Tel: 01623 637 119 (Planning Enquiries)

Email: planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk

Web: www.gov.uk/coalauthority

For the Attention of: Ms H Lancaster - Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor

[By Email: environmentalservices@pins.gsi.gov.uk]

21 February 2018

Dear Ms Lancaster

REFERENCE : TR010041-000003

Scoping consultation - A1 Northumberland to Morpeth to Felton Scheme

Thank you for your notification of 25 January 2018 seeking the views of The Coal Authority on the above.

The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. As a statutory consultee, The Coal Authority has a duty to respond to planning applications and development plans in order to protect the public and the environment in mining areas.

The Coal Authority records indicate that there are 4 mine entries, and areas of recorded and likely unrecorded coal mine workings at shallow depth along the improvement scheme route.

We are pleased to see that the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report, dated January 2018 and prepared by Highways England, at Section 13.3.10 identifies that coal mining legacy poses a potential risk to the works proposed.

The Coal Authority would expect any Environmental Statement prepared to support the application to include a Coal Mining Risk Assessment, or equivalent, which sets out detailed consideration of the route and the potential risks posed by past coal mining activity, and what, if any, remedial measures are required.

The Coal Authority is of the opinion that building over the top of, or in close proximity to, mine entries should be avoided wherever possible, even after they have been capped, in line with our adopted policy:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/building-on-or-within-the-influencing-distance-of-mine-entries>

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely



Melanie Lindsley *BA (Hons), DipEH, DipURP, MA, PGCertUD, PGCertSP, MRTPI*
Team Leader - Planning Liaison

General Information for the Applicant

The Coal Mining Risk Assessment needs to interpret the coal mining risks and should be based on up-to-date information of past coal mining activities in relation to the application site. A variety of Coal Mining Report products which provide baseline information on coal mining legacy risks are available from www.groundstability.com. A Coal Mining Risk Assessment should then take the information contained in the Coal Mining Report and interpret the risks identified specifically in relation to the proposed development. If you merely submit a Non Residential Coal Mining Report, an Enviro All-in-One Report or other factual report obtained from www.groundstability.com (or a similar product from private land search suppliers) this will not overcome our objection to your planning application.

The need for a Coal Mining Risk Assessment is set out in the National Planning Practice Guide at:

<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/land-stability/land-stability-guidance/>

This coal mining information you obtain from a Non-Residential Coal Mining Report, an Enviro-All-in-One Report or other factual report should then be used to assess whether or not past mining activity poses any risk to the development proposal and, where necessary, propose mitigation measures to address any issues of land instability. This could include further intrusive investigation on site to ensure that the Local Planning Authority has sufficient information to determine the planning application.

The Coal Mining Risk Assessment should be prepared by a “competent body”. Links to the relevant professional institutions of competent bodies can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/planning-applications-coal-mining-risk-assessments>

Disclaimer

The above consultation response is provided by The Coal Authority as a Statutory Consultee and is based upon the latest available data on the date of the response, and electronic consultation records held by The Coal Authority since 1 April 2013. The comments made are also based upon only the information provided to The Coal Authority by the Local Planning Authority and/or has been published on the Council's website for consultation purposes in relation to this specific planning application. The views and

conclusions contained in this response may be subject to review and amendment by The Coal Authority if additional or new data/information (such as a revised Coal Mining Risk Assessment) is provided by the Local Planning Authority or the Applicant for consultation purposes.

From: [Megson, Philip](#)
To: [Environmental Services](#)
Subject: A1 Northumberland - Morpeth to Felton Improvement Scheme
Date: 26 January 2018 10:14:19

FAO Helen Lancaster
Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor

Your ref: TR01041-000003

Dear Helen,

Thank you for your consultation letter dated 25 January 2018 regarding the application by Highways England for a Scoping Opinion to inform the preparation of an Environmental Statement.

The County Council does not consider that the project would impact on Cumbria and, therefore, does not propose to engage further on the development of the project.

Kind regards,

Phil Megson
Infrastructure Planning Officer | Infrastructure Planning Team
Economy & Highways Services | Cumbria County Council
Parkhouse Building | Kingmoor Business Park | Carlisle | CA6 4SJ


www.cumbria.gov.uk

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Helen Lancaster
The Planning Inspectorate
3/18 Eagle Wing
Temple Quay House (2 The Square)
Temple Quay
Bristol
Avon
BS1 6PN

Our ref: NA/2018/113972/01-L01
Your ref: TR010041-000003
Date: 23 February 2018

Dear Helen

PLANNING ACT 2008 (AS AMENDED) AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017 (THE EIA REGULATIONS) – REGULATIONS 10 AND 11 APPLICATION BY HIGHWAYS ENGLAND FOR AN ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE A1 NORTHUMBERLAND – MORPETH TO FELTON IMPROVEMENT SCHEME SCOPING CONSULTATION AND NOTIFICATION OF THE APPLICANT’S CONTACT DETAILS AND DUTY TO MAKE AVAILABLE INFORMATION TO THE APPLICANT IF REQUESTED. MORPETH TO FELTON IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

Thank you for referring the above Scoping Report which we received on 26 January 2018. Having reviewed the supporting documentation, we would expect the following matters to be dealt with as part of any planning application of these works:

Flood Risk

Section 12.7.13, details a comprehensive analysis of the flood risks and what is required in their Flood Risk Assessment (FRA). It states that hydraulic modelling is being carried out at 8/9 crossing points and the other crossings are deemed very small to model. Existing structures will also be checked for capacity prior to any modifications or changes to flow rates. The Agency is satisfied with the proposed approach Highway England are taking with respect to flood risk. Their proposed approach has also been discussed at meeting on 9 January 2018.

With respect to flood risk modelling and climate change on Highway England road designs, we would expect the modelling to incorporate 20 – 25% climate change. This should be reflected into the flood risk modelling.



Water Framework Directive

A Water Framework Directive (WFD) Assessment will need to be submitted in support of the National Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) application. This should assess the impact of the proposed development upon WFD and all 31 watercourses.

River Lyne has a WFD classification of poor for ecology. The Longdike Burn is also classified as moderate for ecology. Options to mitigate and improve these WFD classifications should be investigated as part of the NSIP.

Although the River Coquet has an overall WFD classified of good, the River Coquet Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), unit 5, Swarland Burn to Coquet Mouth has been determined to be 'Unfavorable-Recovering' by Natural England (2010).

The following issues should be taken into consideration in the WFD assessment:

- Will expansion of the A1 between Morpeth and Felton lead to deterioration of WFD status of waterbodies within the proposed area of works?
- Will expansion of the A1 between Morpeth and Felton compromise the achievement of Good status in any of the WFD water bodies?
- Will expansion of the A1 between Morpeth and Felton contribute towards a cumulative deterioration of WFD status or prevent cumulative enhancement of WFD status?
- Will expansion of the A1 between Morpeth and Felton compromise the achievement of WFD objectives in those waterbodies that are hydrologically linked?
- Can expansion of the A1 between Morpeth and Felton support the delivery of the measures identified in the Northumbria River Basin management Plan (2016) that are required to achieve its waterbody objective?
- What are the WFD impacts during the construction phase and the completion of the proposed works? Compensatory works may be required to mitigate WFD impacts.

The 5 stages of the WFD assessment are as follows:

- Stage 1 pre-screening
- Stage 2 Screening: you will need to assess the WFD quality elements within each catchment and the potential impact on the WFD status. For example, is further assessment required?
- Stage 3 Further assessment;
- Stage 4 Identification and evaluation of measures; and
- Stage 5 Article 4.7 considerations.



Water Quality

The aim of the scheme is to expand the footprint on the A1 carriageway, this will ultimately result in an increase in the volume of road runoff to surface waters. The requirement for oil traps and hydrodynamic vortex separators will need to be considered to prevent surface water pollution and any deterioration in WFD status.

The Agency welcomes the inclusion of a section in relation to mitigation for sediment management options within the scoping report. It is vital that mitigation for sediment management is taken into account, in order to prevent any deterioration in WFD status of the receiving watercourses.

An assessment using HAWRAT and the Water Risk Assessment Tool will need to be carried out to quantify the impacts of routine runoff and spillages on the receiving watercourses. Mitigation for the increase in flow to receiving surface waters, especially during storm events will also need to be considered. This will prevent scouring and sediment mobilisation within the watercourses and around the highway drain outfalls.

Due to the potential impact on water quality for the River Coquet SSSI and all other sites, it is recommended that drainage is directed into balancing ponds and runoff is attenuated into wetland filter systems. These should be appropriate to the landscape and support native flora and fauna where possible.

A Diffuse Water Pollution Plan has been developed to look at the sources of diffuse pollution throughout the catchment. The Agency would welcome the inclusion of mitigation options to reduce diffuse pollution within the River Coquet and the other water courses within the study area. This should also be included as part of a wider catchment based approach to improving WFD status.

Hydromorphology

Paragraph 12.7.1 states that the hydromorphological condition of the watercourses will be assessed. It is vital that all watercourse crossing surveys demonstrate how the temporary and permanent works will be carried out and the impact they will have on the hydromorphology.

The impact upon the hydromorphology should be used to directly assess the impact upon ecology including fish and their habitat, invertebrates and macrophytes. This could be incorporated into the WFD Assessment and mitigation included where appropriate.

In support of the hydromorphology assessment, River Habitat Surveys, watercourse crossing surveys and geomorphological surveys will be required.



Fish Passage

Where river crossings are to be undertaken, these crossings should be open and must not pose a barrier to migrating fish.

The scoping report indicates there will be eight culverts along the scheme, three of these will be new culverts and five existing. The Agency does not generally support the development of new culverts. Therefore, it is recommended that discussions are held between Highway England and the Agency to discuss the impact of the proposed development on fish passage and ecology.

If culverts are to be installed, fish passage on the new culverts must be incorporated into the scheme. Fish passage improvement should also be investigated and considered within the existing culverts.

Where any stabilisation to banks is required, we would support the use of soft engineering, before hard engineering techniques are used.

White Clawed Crayfish

The Agency are currently undertaking a white clawed crayfish conservation project that incorporates Northumberland Country Zoo. This will involve setting up a captive ark site. The Agency would welcome any involvement from Highways England in this project.

Designated Sites

The designated sites included in the scope are sufficient and Natural England will need to be consulted regarding the impact on these.

Land contamination

The applicant should consider whether any potentially contaminative current and previous land uses are located along the route of the development. If there is a possibility of encountering land contamination, an assessment of the risk posed to controlled water receptors should be undertaken with remediation and/or mitigation undertaken as required to manage the risks identified.

Groundwater

We are aware of the presence of shallow groundwater along some parts of the route. Therefore consideration will need to be given to whether this may pose a risk to any part of the proposed scheme. For example, infiltration is unlikely to be a suitable drainage option.

The storage and use of any chemicals used on site during the development works should not pose a risk to controlled waters. Thus, consideration should be given to the use of suitable pollution prevention measures. For example, the storage of chemicals within appropriately sized bunds



Flood Risk Permits

The rivers within your proposed road design are designated "main river" and under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016. You may require an environmental permit for flood risk activities. If you want to do work within 8metres of a non-tidal sections, or 16metres of the tidal section, instance where work is proposed:

- a) in, under or near a main river (including where the river is in a culvert;
- b) on or near a flood defence on a main river
- c) in the floodplain of a main river
- d) on or near a sea defence.

You can find out more information on permit requirements using the following link :

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits>. If a permit is required, it must be obtained prior to beginning the works.

The applicant is advised to contact the Environment Agency to discuss the issues likely to be raised. For further details about flood risk permits, please contact our local Partnerships and Strategic Overview team on NE EPR Permit@environment-agency.gov.uk

Bespoke Advice from the Agency

If you require site specific advice, a review of a technical document or require a site meeting before submitting a formal NSIP application, we would encourage you to seek pre-application advice as it can help you solve key environmental issues early, reduce the chance of an objection and help you design a more sustainable development.

If you would like to take advantage of this service, please contact me if for further details and estimated costs. The Agency currently charges £84 per hour, per person. These charges are anticipated to increase to £100 on 1 April 2018.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Yours sincerely

Lucy Mo
Planning Technical Specialist - Sustainable Places

Direct dial 020847 46524

Direct e-mail lucy.mo@environment-agency.gov.uk



From: [ESP Utilities Group Ltd](#)
To: [Environmental Services](#)
Subject: Your Reference: TR010041-000003. Our Reference: PE134152. Plant Not Affected Notice from ES Pipelines
Date: 26 January 2018 12:48:14

Environmental Services
The Planning Inspectorate

26 January 2018

Reference: TR010041-000003

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your recent plant enquiry at (TR010041-000003).

I can confirm that ESP Gas Group Ltd has no gas or electricity apparatus in the vicinity of this site address and will not be affected by your proposed works.

ESP are continually laying new gas and electricity networks and this notification is valid for 90 days from the date of this letter. If your proposed works start after this period of time, please re-submit your enquiry.

Important Notice

Please be advised that any enquiries for ESP Connections Ltd, formerly known as British Gas Connections Ltd, should be sent directly to us at the address shown above or alternatively you can email us at: PlantResponses@espipelines.com

Yours faithfully,

Alan Slee
Operations Manager



Bluebird House
Mole Business Park
Leatherhead
KT22 7BA

☎ 01372 587500 📠 01372 377996

<http://www.espug.com>

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Yorkshire & North East

Foss House
Kings Pool
1-2 Peasholme Green
York
YO1 7PX

Tel 0300 067 4900

yorkshirenortheast@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Area Director

Crispin Thorn

Date: 23rd February 2018
Our ref: YNE/02/I&R/Statutory/2018
Your ref: TR010041-000003

Helen Lancaster
Senior EIA and Land Rights Adviser
The Planning Inspectorate
3D Eagle Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN
BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Ms Lancaster,

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impacts Assessment) regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11:
Application by Highways England for an Order granting Development Consent for the A1
Northumberland – Morpeth to Felton Improvement Scheme**

Location: A1 Northumberland – Morpeth to Felton

Thank you for seeking our advice on the scope of the Environmental Statement (ES) in your consultation dated 25th January 2018.

The Forestry Commission is the Government experts on forestry & woodland and a statutory consultee (as defined by Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009)^[1] for major infrastructure (Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPS)) that are likely to affect the protection or expansion of forests and woodlands (Planning Act 2008).

^[1] <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2009/2264/contents/made>

The Forestry Commission's responsibility is to discharge its consultee roles as efficiently, effectively and professionally as possible, based on the forestry principles set out in the [The UK Forestry Standard](#) (4th edition published 2017). **Page 23** "Areas of woodland are material considerations in the planning process and may be protected in local authority Area Plans. These plans pay particular attention to woods listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory and areas identified as Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs).

As highlighted in the *Irreplaceable habitats including ancient woodland and veteran trees* section of the National Policy Statement National Networks (NPSNN):

Paragraph 5.32

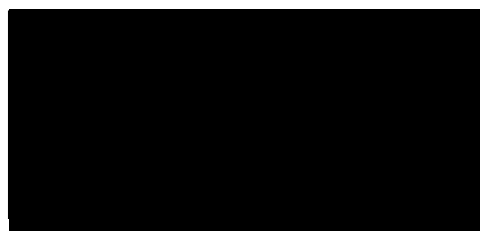
"Ancient woodland is a valuable biodiversity resource both for its diversity of species and for its longevity as woodland. Once lost it cannot be recreated. The Secretary of State should not grant development consent for any development that would result in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats including ancient woodland and the loss of aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, unless the national need for and benefits of the development, in that location, clearly outweigh the loss. Aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland are also particularly valuable for biodiversity and their loss should be avoided. Where such trees would be affected by development proposals, the applicant should set out proposals for their conservation or, where their loss is unavoidable, the reasons for this."

The Forestry Commission has also prepared joint [standing advice](#) with Natural England on ancient woodland and veteran trees which we refer you to as it notes that ancient woodland is an irreplaceable habitat, and that, in planning decisions, Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) should be treated equally in terms of the protection afforded to ancient woodland. It highlights the Ancient Woodland Inventory as a way to find out if woodland is ancient.

We have reviewed Section 9 Landscape and Section 11 Biodiversity, and are essentially satisfied with what has been scoped in and out, as well as the level of assessment of what has been scoped in. We do however note that paragraphs 9.5.4 and Section 11.5 of the scoping report only refers to mitigation for the impact on ancient woodland. We recognise that there are proposed "Direct loss of landscape features such as hedges, trees and woodlands (including potential loss of Ancient Woodland)". We note that where they are irreplaceable habitats, their loss cannot be fully compensated for. It is not possible to offset the potential impacts to ancient woodland (Paragraph 11.5.5) Paragraph 9.5.4 and Section 11.5 should therefore refer to compensation actions as well as mitigation. We also suggest that a management plan is required, as set out in Paragraph 11.5.6, to ensure long term viability of created habitat. This is particularly the case for woodlands created as compensation for loss of ancient woodland, especially those with translocated soil from ancient woodland sites. This paragraph should also refer to compensation as well as mitigation. We have no further comments at this stage of the process.

If you wish to consult us further in relation to the Environmental Statement with the Forestry Commission please contact the Yorkshire and North East Office at the above address.

Yours sincerely



Jim Smith
Local Partnership Adviser

CEMHD Policy - Land Use Planning
NSIP Consultations
Building 2.2, Redgrave Court
Merton Road, Bootle
Merseyside, L20 7HS

Your ref: TR010041
Our ref: 4.2.1.6268
HSE email: NSIP.applications@hse.gov.uk

FAO Helen Lancaster
The Planning Inspectorate
Bristol
BS1 6PN
By e-mail

23/02/18

Dear Ms Lancaster

**PROPOSED A1 Northumberland - Morpeth to Felton Improvement Scheme (the project)
PROPOSAL BY HIGHWAYS ENGLAND (the applicant)
INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017 (as amended)
– Regulations 10 and 11**

Thank you for your letter of 25 January 2018 regarding the information to be provided in an environmental statement relating to the above project.

HSE does not comment on EIA Scoping Reports but the following information is likely to be useful to the applicant.

HSE's land use planning advice

Will the proposed development fall within any of HSE's consultation distances?

According to HSE's records, there are no major accident hazard installations in the vicinity of this infrastructure project. However, the road section does cross pipeline National Grid Gas PLC 13 Feeder Wooler/Corbridge. It is advised that the Applicant (Highways England) should approach the Pipeline operator.

Explosives sites

HSE has no comment to make as there are no licensed explosive sites in the vicinity.

Electrical Safety

No comment from a planning perspective

Please send any further electronic communication on this project directly to the HSE's designated e-mail account for NSIP applications. Alternatively any hard copy correspondence should be sent to:

Mr Dave Adams (MHPD)
NSIP Consultations
2.2 Redgrave Court
Merton Road, Bootle,
Merseyside L20 7HS

Yours sincerely,


Marion Davies
(CEMHD4 Policy)

From: [Goodwill, Mark](#)
To: [Environmental Services](#)
Cc: [Dixon, Paul](#)
Subject: FAO Helen Lancaster - ref: TR010041-000003 (A1 Northumberland, Morpeth to Felton)
Date: 15 February 2018 09:29:04

Dear Helen,

I refer to your letter dated 25 January 2018 regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report which has been submitted for the above project.

I can confirm that this document has been reviewed and that I do not have any comments regarding its contents.

Thank you for formally consulting us.

Kind regards

Mark Goodwill – Spatial Planning Manager

Highways England | Great North House | 20 Allington Way | Darlington | DL1 4QB

Web: <http://www.highways.gov.uk>

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Highways England Company Limited | General enquiries: 0300 123 5000
|National Traffic Operations Centre, 3 Ridgeway, Quinton Business Park,
Birmingham B32 1AF | [https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england)
[england](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk) | info@highwaysengland.co.uk

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Historic England

NORTH EAST OFFICE

Ms Helen Lancaster
The Planning Inspectorate
3D Eagle Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Direct Dial: 0191-2691240

Our ref: PL00297363

19 February 2018

Dear Ms Lancaster

Re: Application by Highways England for an Order granting Development Consent for the A1 Northumberland - Morphet to Felton improvement scheme: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) SCOPING OPINION

Thank you for your letter of 29th January 2018 consulting us about the above EIA Scoping Report Opinion.

This development could, potentially, have an impact upon a significant number of designated heritage assets and their settings in the area around the site. In line with the advice in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), we would expect the Environmental Statement to contain a thorough assessment of the likely effects which the proposed development might have upon those elements which contribute to the significance of these assets.

Our initial assessment agrees with the list of designated heritage assets within 1 km of the proposed development as identified by the Scoping Report in Figure 1.2 Environmental Constraints Plan, Appendix B.2.

We would also expect the Environmental Statement to consider the potential impacts on non-designated features of historic, architectural, archaeological or artistic interest, since these can also be of national importance and make an important contribution to the character and local distinctiveness of an area and sense of place. This information is available via the local authority Historic Environment Record (www.keystothepast.info) and relevant local authority staff. The Scoping Report does identify a number of non-designated assets within a 300m study area of the proposed development.

The assessment should also take account of the potential impact which associated activities (such as construction, servicing and maintenance, and associated traffic) might have upon perceptions, understanding and appreciation of the heritage assets in the area. The assessment should also consider, where appropriate, the likelihood of alterations to drainage patterns that might lead to in situ decomposition or destruction



BESSIE SURTEES HOUSE 41-44 SANDHILL NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE1 3JF

Telephone 0191 269 1255
HistoricEngland.org.uk



NORTH EAST OFFICE

of below ground archaeological remains and deposits, and can also lead to subsidence of buildings and monuments.

Given the scale of the proposed development and the surrounding landscape character, this development is likely to be visible across a very large area and could, as a result, affect the significance of heritage assets at some distance from this site itself. We would expect the assessment to clearly demonstrate that the extent of the proposed study area is of the appropriate size to ensure that all heritage assets likely to be affected by this development have been included and can be properly assessed. The Scoping Report does include a Visual Envelope Plan in Figure 9.1, Appendix B.4

It is important that the assessment is designed to ensure that all impacts are fully understood. Section drawings and techniques such as photomontages are a useful part of this. This would be of particular importance in relation to the proposed new junctions and bridge.

We would strongly recommend that you involve the Northumberland County Council Conservation Officer and archaeological advisers in the development of this assessment. They are best placed to advise on local historic environment issues and priorities; how the proposal can be tailored to avoid and minimise potential adverse impacts on the historic environment; the nature and design of any required mitigation measures; and opportunities for securing wider benefits for the future conservation and management of heritage assets.

The setting assessment should follow best practice standards and guidance as set out in “Good Practice Advice in Planning - Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets” and “Good Practice Advice in Planning - Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision Taking in the Historic Environment”. The latter is in addition to guidance mentioned in paragraph 10.7.6 of the Scoping Report.

If you have any queries about any of the above, or would like to discuss anything further, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Rosa Teira Paz
Assistant Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas
rosa.teirapaz@historicengland.org.uk



BESSIE SURTEES HOUSE 41-44 SANDHILL NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE1 3JF

Telephone 0191 269 1255
HistoricEngland.org.uk



Sent electronically to:

environmentalservices@pins.gsi.gov.uk

Nick Dexter
DCO Liaison Officer
Land & Business Support

Nicholas.dexter@nationalgrid.com

www.nationalgrid.com

23rd February 2018

Dear Sir / Madam,

Ref: TR010041 - A1 Northumberland - Morpeth to Felton Improvement Scheme - Environmental Impact Assessment Notification and Consultation

I refer to your letter dated 25th January 2018 in relation to the above proposed application for a Development Consent Order for the proposed Morpeth to Felton Improvement Scheme. Having reviewed the Scoping Report, I would like to make the following comments:

National Grid infrastructure within / in close proximity to the order boundary

Electricity Transmission

National Grid Electricity Transmission has no apparatus within or in close proximity to the proposed order limits.

Gas Transmission

National Grid Gas has a high pressure gas transmission pipeline located within or in close proximity to the proposed order limits. The transmission pipeline forms an essential part of the gas transmission network in England, Wales and Scotland:

- Feeder Main 13 (Simprim to Corbridge)

I enclose a plan showing the route of National Grid's gas transmission pipeline.

Gas Infrastructure:

The following points should be taken into consideration:

- National Grid has a Deed of Grant of Easement for each pipeline, which prevents the erection of permanent / temporary buildings, or structures, change to existing ground levels, storage of materials etc.

Pipeline Crossings:

- Where existing roads cannot be used, construction traffic should ONLY cross the pipeline at previously agreed locations.
- The pipeline shall be protected, at the crossing points, by temporary rafts constructed at ground level. The third party shall review ground conditions, vehicle types and crossing frequencies to determine the type and construction of the raft required.
- The type of raft shall be agreed with National Grid prior to installation.
- No protective measures including the installation of concrete slab protection shall be installed over or near to the National Grid pipeline without the prior permission of National Grid.
- National Grid will need to agree the material, the dimensions and method of installation of the proposed protective measure.
- The method of installation shall be confirmed through the submission of a formal written method statement from the contractor to National Grid.
- Please be aware that written permission is required before any works commence within the National Grid easement strip.
- A National Grid representative shall monitor any works within close proximity to the pipeline to comply with National Grid specification T/SP/SSW22.
- A Deed of Consent is required for any crossing of the easement

Cables Crossing:

- Cables may cross the pipeline at perpendicular angle to the pipeline i.e. 90 degrees.
- A National Grid representative shall supervise any cable crossing of a pipeline.
- Clearance must be at least 600mm above or below the pipeline.
- Impact protection slab should be laid between the cable and pipeline if cable crossing is above the pipeline.
- A Deed of Consent is required for any cable crossing the easement.
- Where a new service is to cross over the pipeline a clearance distance of 0.6 metres between the crown of the pipeline and underside of the service should be maintained. If this cannot be achieved the service shall cross below the pipeline with a clearance distance of 0.6 metres.

General Notes on Pipeline Safety:

- You should be aware of the Health and Safety Executives guidance document HS(G) 47 "Avoiding Danger from Underground Services", and National Grid's specification for Safe

Working in the Vicinity of National Grid High Pressure gas pipelines and associated installations - requirements for third parties T/SP/SSW22.

- National Grid will also need to ensure that our pipelines access is maintained during and after construction.
- Our pipelines are normally buried to a depth cover of 1.1 metres however; actual depth and position must be confirmed on site by trial hole investigation under the supervision of a National Grid representative. Ground cover above our pipelines should not be reduced or increased.
- If any excavations are planned within 3 metres of National Grid High Pressure Pipeline or, within 10 metres of an AGI (Above Ground Installation), or if any embankment or dredging works are proposed then the actual position and depth of the pipeline must be established on site in the presence of a National Grid representative. A safe working method agreed prior to any work taking place in order to minimise the risk of damage and ensure the final depth of cover does not affect the integrity of the pipeline.
- Excavation works may take place unsupervised no closer than 3 metres from the pipeline once the actual depth and position has been confirmed on site under the supervision of a National Grid representative. Similarly, excavation with hand held power tools is not permitted within 1.5 metres from our apparatus and the work is undertaken with NG supervision and guidance.

To view the SSW22 Document, please use the link below:

<http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/LandandDevelopment/DDC/GasElectricNW/safeworking.htm>

To download a copy of the HSE Guidance HS(G)47, please use the following link:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg47.htm>

Further Advice

We would request that the potential impact of the proposed scheme on National Grid's existing assets as set out above and including any proposed diversions is considered in any subsequent reports, including in the Environmental Statement, and as part of any subsequent application.

Where any diversion of apparatus may be required to facilitate a scheme, National Grid is unable to give any certainty with the regard to diversions until such time as adequate conceptual design studies have been undertaken by National Grid. Further information relating to this can be obtained by contacting the email address below.

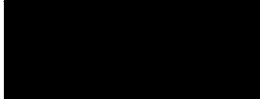
Where the promoter intends to acquire land, extinguish rights, or interfere with any of National Grid apparatus protective provisions will be required in a form acceptable to it to be included within the DCO.

National Grid requests to be consulted at the earliest stages to ensure that the most appropriate protective provisions are included within the DCO application to safeguard the integrity of our apparatus and to remove the requirement for objection. All consultations should be sent to the following email address: box.landandacquisitions@nationalgrid.com

I hope the above information is useful. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

The information in this letter is provided notwithstanding any discussions taking place in relation to connections with electricity or gas customer services.

Yours Faithfully

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Nick Dexter.

Nick Dexter.

NGG Feeder Main 13

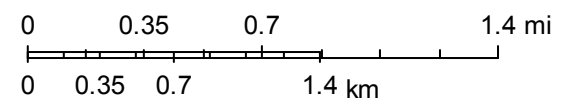


January 6, 2017

GAS_PIPE_FEEDER

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Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

From: [NATS Safeguarding](#)
To: [Environmental Services](#)
Subject: RE: A1 Northumberland - Morpeth to Felton Improvement Scheme - Environmental Impact Assessment Notification and Consultation (Our Ref: SG25762)
Date: 26 January 2018 12:00:48
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.gif](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

The proposed development has been examined from a technical safeguarding aspect and does not conflict with our safeguarding criteria. Accordingly, NATS (En Route) Public Limited Company ("NERL") has no safeguarding objection to the proposal.

However, please be aware that this response applies specifically to the above consultation and only reflects the position of NATS (that is responsible for the management of en route air traffic) based on the information supplied at the time of this application. This letter does not provide any indication of the position of any other party, whether they be an airport, airspace user or otherwise. It remains your responsibility to ensure that all the appropriate consultees are properly consulted.

If any changes are proposed to the information supplied to NATS in regard to this application which become the basis of a revised, amended or further application for approval, then as a statutory consultee NERL requires that it be further consulted on any such changes prior to any planning permission or any consent being granted.

Yours Faithfully



NATS Safeguarding

D: 01489 444687

E: natssafeguarding@nats.co.uk

4000 Parkway, Whiteley,
Fareham, Hants PO15 7FL
www.nats.co.uk



From: Environmental Services [mailto:environmentalservices@pins.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 25 January 2018 16:08
Subject: A1 Northumberland - Morpeth to Felton Improvement Scheme - Environmental Impact Assessment Notification and Consultation

Mimecast Attachment Protection has deemed this file to be safe, but always exercise caution when opening files.

Dear Sir/Madam

Please see attached correspondence on the proposed A1 Northumberland – Morpeth to Felton Improvement Scheme.

Please note the deadline for consultation responses is **23 February 2018**, and is a statutory requirement that cannot be extended.

Kind regards,

Helen Lancaster

Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor
Major Applications and Plans

The Planning Inspectorate, 3D, Temple Quay House, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN

Direct line: 0303 444 5063

Helpline: 0303 444 5000

Email: Helen.Lancaster@pins.gsi.gov.uk

Web: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/> (National Infrastructure Planning)

Web: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/planning-inspectorate (The Planning Inspectorate)

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From: [Jan Anderson](#)
To: [Environmental Services](#)
Subject: Re: A1 Northumberland - Morpeth to Felton Improvement Scheme - Environmental Impact Assessment Notification and Consultation
Date: 23 February 2018 22:53:05

FAO Helen Lancaster

Dear Madam

In response to your email of 25th January to Newton on the Moor Parish Council, as one of the consultees on the application from Highways England for an Order granting Development Consent for the A1 Northumberland - Morpeth to Felton.

I would confirm that the Parish Council doesn't have anything to add to the documentation, and does not have any comments to make at this time.

Yours sincerely

Jan Anderson

On Thu, Jan 25, 2018 at 4:08 PM, Environmental Services
<environmentalservices@pins.gsi.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Sir/Madam

Please see attached correspondence on the proposed A1 Northumberland – Morpeth to Felton Improvement Scheme.

Please note the deadline for consultation responses is **23 February 2018**, and is a statutory requirement that cannot be extended.

Kind regards,

Helen Lancaster
Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor
Major Applications and Plans

The Planning Inspectorate, 3D, Temple Quay House, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN

Direct line: 0303 444 5063

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Jan Anderson
Clerk to Newton on the Moor & Swarland PC
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From: [Julie Lawson](#)
To: [Environmental Services](#)
Subject: Scoping Consultation and Notification for Order Granting Development Consent for the Morpeth to Felton Improvement Scheme [Scanned]
Date: 20 February 2018 15:51:03
Attachments: [image003.jpg](#)

Your ref: TR010041-000003

Further to your consultation to North Tyneside Council on the above, I can confirm that North Tyneside Council has no comments to make.

Regards

Julie Lawson
DC Area Manager



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Bristol BS1 6PN

Your Ref : TR010041-000003

Our Ref : 43064

22nd February 2018

Dear Ms Lancaster

**Re: Scoping Consultation
Application for an Order Granting Development Consent for the proposed A1
Northumberland – Morpeth to Felton Improvement Scheme**

Thank you for including Public Health England (PHE) in the scoping consultation phase of the above application. Our response focuses on health protection issues relating to chemicals and radiation. Advice offered by us is impartial and independent.

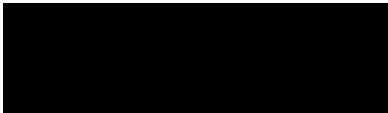
We understand that the promoter will wish to avoid unnecessary duplication and that many issues including air quality, emissions to water, waste, contaminated land etc. will be covered elsewhere in the Environmental Statement (ES). We believe the summation of relevant issues into a specific section of the report provides a focus which ensures that public health is given adequate consideration. The section should summarise key information, risk assessments, proposed mitigation measures, conclusions and residual impacts, relating to human health. Compliance with the requirements of National Policy Statements and relevant guidance and standards should also be highlighted.

In terms of the level of detail to be included in an ES, we recognise that the differing nature of projects is such that their impacts will vary. Any assessments undertaken to inform the ES should be proportionate to the potential impacts of the proposal, therefore we accept that, in some circumstances particular assessments may not be relevant to an application, or that an assessment may be adequately completed using a qualitative rather than quantitative methodology. In cases where this decision is made the promoters should fully explain and justify their rationale in the submitted documentation.

It is noted that the current proposals do not appear to consider possible health impacts of Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF). The proposer should confirm either that the proposed development does include or impact upon any potential sources of EMF; or ensure that an adequate assessment of the possible impacts is undertaken and included in the ES.

The attached appendix outlines generic areas that should be addressed by all promoters when preparing ES for inclusion with an NSIP submission. We are happy to assist and discuss proposals further in the light of this advice.

Yours sincerely



Dr Kevin Manley
Specialist Environmental Public Health Scientist

nsipconsultations@phe.gov.uk

Please mark any correspondence for the attention of National Infrastructure Planning Administration.

Appendix: PHE recommendations regarding the scoping document

General approach

The EIA should give consideration to best practice guidance such as the Government's Good Practice Guide for EIA¹. It is important that the EIA identifies and assesses the potential public health impacts of the activities at, and emissions from, the installation. Assessment should consider the development, operational, and decommissioning phases.

It is not PHE's role to undertake these assessments on behalf of promoters as this would conflict with PHE's role as an impartial and independent body.

Consideration of alternatives (including alternative sites, choice of process, and the phasing of construction) is widely regarded as good practice. Ideally, EIA should start at the stage of site and process selection, so that the environmental merits of practicable alternatives can be properly considered. Where this is undertaken, the main alternatives considered should be outlined in the ES².

The following text covers a range of issues that PHE would expect to be addressed by the promoter. However this list is not exhaustive and the onus is on the promoter to ensure that the relevant public health issues are identified and addressed. PHE's advice and recommendations carry no statutory weight and constitute non-binding guidance.

Receptors

The ES should clearly identify the development's location and the location and distance from the development of off-site human receptors that may be affected by emissions from, or activities at, the development. Off-site human receptors may include people living in residential premises; people working in commercial, and industrial premises and people using transport infrastructure (such as roads and railways), recreational areas, and publicly-accessible land. Consideration should also be given to environmental receptors such as the surrounding land, watercourses, surface and groundwater, and drinking water supplies such as wells, boreholes and water abstraction points.

Impacts arising from construction and decommissioning

Any assessment of impacts arising from emissions due to construction and decommissioning should consider potential impacts on all receptors and describe monitoring and mitigation during these phases. Construction and decommissioning will be associated with vehicle movements and cumulative impacts should be accounted for.

We would expect the promoter to follow best practice guidance during all phases from construction to decommissioning to ensure appropriate measures are in place

¹ Environmental Impact Assessment: A guide to good practice and procedures - A consultation paper; 2006; Department for Communities and Local Government. Available from: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100410180038/http://communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/sustainability/environmental/environmentalimpactassessment/>

² DCLG guidance, 1999 <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/155958.pdf>

to mitigate any potential impact on health from emissions (point source, fugitive and traffic-related). An effective Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (and Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP)) will help provide reassurance that activities are well managed. The promoter should ensure that there are robust mechanisms in place to respond to any complaints of traffic-related pollution, during construction, operation, and decommissioning of the facility.

Emissions to air and water

Significant impacts are unlikely to arise from installations which employ Best Available Techniques (BAT) and which meet regulatory requirements concerning emission limits and design parameters. However, PHE has a number of comments regarding emissions in order that the EIA provides a comprehensive assessment of potential impacts.

When considering a baseline (of existing environmental quality) and in the assessment and future monitoring of impacts these:

- should include appropriate screening assessments and detailed dispersion modelling where this is screened as necessary
- should encompass all pollutants which may be emitted by the installation in combination with all pollutants arising from associated development and transport, ideally these should be considered in a single holistic assessment
- should consider the construction, operational, and decommissioning phases
- should consider the typical operational emissions and emissions from start-up, shut-down, abnormal operation and accidents when assessing potential impacts and include an assessment of worst-case impacts
- should fully account for fugitive emissions
- should include appropriate estimates of background levels
- should identify cumulative and incremental impacts (i.e. assess cumulative impacts from multiple sources), including those arising from associated development, other existing and proposed development in the local area, and new vehicle movements associated with the proposed development; associated transport emissions should include consideration of non-road impacts (i.e. rail, sea, and air)
- should include consideration of local authority, Environment Agency, Defra national network, and any other local site-specific sources of monitoring data
- should compare predicted environmental concentrations to the applicable standard or guideline value for the affected medium (such as UK Air Quality Standards and Objectives and Environmental Assessment Levels)
 - If no standard or guideline value exists, the predicted exposure to humans should be estimated and compared to an appropriate health-based value (a Tolerable Daily Intake or equivalent). Further guidance is provided in Annex 1
 - This should consider all applicable routes of exposure e.g. include consideration of aspects such as the deposition of chemicals emitted to air and their uptake via ingestion
- should identify and consider impacts on residential areas and sensitive receptors (such as schools, nursing homes and healthcare facilities) in the area(s) which may be affected by emissions, this should include consideration of any new receptors arising from future development

Whilst screening of impacts using qualitative methodologies is common practice (e.g. for impacts arising from fugitive emissions such as dust), where it is possible to undertake a quantitative assessment of impacts then this should be undertaken. PHE's view is that the EIA should appraise and describe the measures that will be used to control both point source and fugitive emissions and demonstrate that standards, guideline values or health-based values will not be exceeded due to emissions from the installation, as described above. This should include consideration of any emitted pollutants for which there are no set emission limits. When assessing the potential impact of a proposed installation on environmental quality, predicted environmental concentrations should be compared to the permitted concentrations in the affected media; this should include both standards for short and long-term exposure.

Additional points specific to emissions to air

When considering a baseline (of existing air quality) and in the assessment and future monitoring of impacts these:

- should include consideration of impacts on existing areas of poor air quality e.g. existing or proposed local authority Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)
- should include modelling using appropriate meteorological data (i.e. come from the nearest suitable meteorological station and include a range of years and worst case conditions)
- should include modelling taking into account local topography

Additional points specific to emissions to water

When considering a baseline (of existing water quality) and in the assessment and future monitoring of impacts these:

- should include assessment of potential impacts on human health and not focus solely on ecological impacts
- should identify and consider all routes by which emissions may lead to population exposure (e.g. surface watercourses; recreational waters; sewers; geological routes etc.)
- should assess the potential off-site effects of emissions to groundwater (e.g. on aquifers used for drinking water) and surface water (used for drinking water abstraction) in terms of the potential for population exposure
- should include consideration of potential impacts on recreational users (e.g. from fishing, canoeing etc) alongside assessment of potential exposure via drinking water

Land quality

We would expect the promoter to provide details of any hazardous contamination present on site (including ground gas) as part of the site condition report.

Emissions to and from the ground should be considered in terms of the previous history of the site and the potential of the site, once operational, to give rise to issues. Public health impacts associated with ground contamination and/or the migration of material off-site should be assessed³ and the potential impact on nearby receptors and control and mitigation measures should be outlined.

³ Following the approach outlined in the section above dealing with emissions to air and water i.e. comparing predicted environmental concentrations to the applicable standard or guideline value for the affected medium (such as Soil Guideline Values)

Relevant areas outlined in the Government's Good Practice Guide for EIA include:

- effects associated with ground contamination that may already exist
- effects associated with the potential for polluting substances that are used (during construction / operation) to cause new ground contamination issues on a site, for example introducing / changing the source of contamination
- impacts associated with re-use of soils and waste soils, for example, re-use of site-sourced materials on-site or offsite, disposal of site-sourced materials offsite, importation of materials to the site, etc.

Waste

The EIA should demonstrate compliance with the waste hierarchy (e.g. with respect to re-use, recycling or recovery and disposal).

For wastes arising from the installation the EIA should consider:

- the implications and wider environmental and public health impacts of different waste disposal options
- disposal route(s) and transport method(s) and how potential impacts on public health will be mitigated

Other aspects

Within the EIA PHE would expect to see information about how the promoter would respond to accidents with potential off-site emissions e.g. flooding or fires, spills, leaks or releases off-site. Assessment of accidents should: identify all potential hazards in relation to construction, operation and decommissioning; include an assessment of the risks posed; and identify risk management measures and contingency actions that will be employed in the event of an accident in order to mitigate off-site effects.

The EIA should include consideration of the COMAH Regulations (Control of Major Accident Hazards) and the Major Accident Off-Site Emergency Plan (Management of Waste from Extractive Industries) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009: both in terms of their applicability to the installation itself, and the installation's potential to impact on, or be impacted by, any nearby installations themselves subject to the these Regulations.

There is evidence that, in some cases, perception of risk may have a greater impact on health than the hazard itself. A 2009 report⁴, jointly published by Liverpool John Moores University and the HPA, examined health risk perception and environmental problems using a number of case studies. As a point to consider, the report suggested: "Estimation of community anxiety and stress should be included as part of every risk or impact assessment of proposed plans that involve a potential environmental hazard. This is true even when the physical health risks may be negligible." PHE supports the inclusion of this information within EIAs as good practice.

Electromagnetic fields (EMF)

⁴ Available from: <http://www.cph.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/health-risk-perception-and-environmental-problems--summary-report.pdf>

This statement is intended to support planning proposals involving electrical installations such as substations and connecting underground cables or overhead lines. PHE advice on the health effects of power frequency electric and magnetic fields is available in the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/electromagnetic-fields#low-frequency-electric-and-magnetic-fields>

There is a potential health impact associated with the electric and magnetic fields around substations, and power lines and cables. The field strength tends to reduce with distance from such equipment.

The following information provides a framework for considering the health impact associated with the electric and magnetic fields produced by the proposed development, including the direct and indirect effects of the electric and magnetic fields as indicated above.

Policy Measures for the Electricity Industry

The Department of Energy and Climate Change has published a voluntary code of practice which sets out key principles for complying with the ICNIRP guidelines:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/37447/1256-code-practice-emf-public-exp-guidelines.pdf

Companion codes of practice dealing with optimum phasing of high voltage power lines and aspects of the guidelines that relate to indirect effects are also available:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/48309/1255-code-practice-optimum-phasing-power-lines.pdf

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/224766/powerlines_vcop_microshocks.pdf

Exposure Guidelines

PHE recommends the adoption in the UK of the EMF exposure guidelines published by the International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). Formal advice to this effect was published by one of PHE's predecessor organisations (NRPB) in 2004 based on an accompanying comprehensive review of the scientific evidence:-

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140629102627/http://www.hpa.org.uk/Publications/Radiation/NPRBArchive/DocumentsOfTheNRPB/Absd1502/>

Updates to the ICNIRP guidelines for static fields have been issued in 2009 and for low frequency fields in 2010. However, Government policy is that the ICNIRP guidelines are implemented in line with the terms of the 1999 EU Council Recommendation on limiting exposure of the general public (1999/519/EC):

Static magnetic fields

For static magnetic fields, the ICNIRP guidelines published in 2009 recommend that acute exposure of the general public should not exceed 400 mT (millitesla), for any part of the body, although the previously recommended value of 40 mT is the value used in the Council Recommendation. However, because of potential indirect adverse effects, ICNIRP recognises that practical policies need to be implemented to prevent inadvertent harmful exposure of people with implanted electronic medical devices and implants containing ferromagnetic materials, and injuries due to flying ferromagnetic objects, and these considerations can lead to much lower restrictions, such as 0.5 mT.

Power frequency electric and magnetic fields

At 50 Hz, the known direct effects include those of induced currents in the body on the central nervous system (CNS) and indirect effects include the risk of painful spark discharge on contact with metal objects exposed to the field. The ICNIRP guidelines published in 1998 give reference levels for public exposure to 50 Hz electric and magnetic fields, and these are respectively 5 kV m⁻¹ (kilovolts per metre) and 100 µT (microtesla). The reference level for magnetic fields changes to 200 µT in the revised (ICNIRP 2010) guidelines because of new basic restrictions based on induced electric fields inside the body, rather than induced current density. If people are not exposed to field strengths above these levels, direct effects on the CNS should be avoided and indirect effects such as the risk of painful spark discharge will be small. The reference levels are not in themselves limits but provide guidance for assessing compliance with the basic restrictions and reducing the risk of indirect effects.

Long term effects

There is concern about the possible effects of long-term exposure to electromagnetic fields, including possible carcinogenic effects at levels much lower than those given in the ICNIRP guidelines. In the NRPB advice issued in 2004, it was concluded that the studies that suggest health effects, including those concerning childhood leukaemia, could not be used to derive quantitative guidance on restricting exposure. However, the results of these studies represented uncertainty in the underlying evidence base, and taken together with people's concerns, provided a basis for providing an additional recommendation for Government to consider the need for further precautionary measures, particularly with respect to the exposure of children to power frequency magnetic fields.

The Stakeholder Advisory Group on ELF EMFs (SAGE)

SAGE was set up to explore the implications for a precautionary approach to extremely low frequency electric and magnetic fields (ELF EMFs), and to make practical recommendations to Government:

<http://www.emfs.info/policy/sage/>

SAGE issued its First Interim Assessment in 2007, making several recommendations concerning high voltage power lines. Government supported the implantation of low cost options such as optimal phasing to reduce exposure; however it did not support the option of creating corridors around power lines on health grounds, which was considered to be a disproportionate measure given the evidence base on the potential long term health risks arising from exposure. The Government response to SAGE's First Interim Assessment is available here:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130107105354/http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_107124

The Government also supported calls for providing more information on power frequency electric and magnetic fields, which is available on the PHE web pages (see first link above).

Ionising radiation

Particular considerations apply when an application involves the possibility of exposure to ionising radiation. In such cases it is important that the basic principles of radiation protection recommended by the International Commission on Radiological Protection⁵ (ICRP) are followed. PHE provides advice on the application of these recommendations in the UK. The ICRP recommendations are implemented in the Euratom Basic Safety Standards⁶ (BSS) and these form the basis for UK legislation, including the Ionising Radiation Regulations 1999, the Radioactive Substances Act 1993, and the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016.

PHE expects promoters to carry out the necessary radiological impact assessments to demonstrate compliance with UK legislation and the principles of radiation protection. This should be set out clearly in a separate section or report and should not require any further analysis by PHE. In particular, the important principles of justification, optimisation and radiation dose limitation should be addressed. In addition compliance with the Euratom BSS and UK legislation should be clear.

When considering the radiological impact of routine discharges of radionuclides to the environment PHE would expect to see a full radiation dose assessment considering both individual and collective (population) doses for the public and, where necessary, workers. For individual doses, consideration should be given to those members of the public who are likely to receive the highest exposures (referred to as the representative person, which is equivalent to the previous term, critical group). Different age groups should be considered as appropriate and should normally include adults, 1 year old and 10 year old children. In particular situations

⁵ These recommendations are given in publications of the ICRP notably publications 90 and 103 see the website at <http://www.icrp.org/>

⁶ Council Directive 96/29/EURATOM laying down basic safety standards for the protection of the health of workers and the general public against the dangers arising from ionising radiation.

doses to the fetus should also be calculated⁷. The estimated doses to the representative person should be compared to the appropriate radiation dose criteria (dose constraints and dose limits), taking account of other releases of radionuclides from nearby locations as appropriate. Collective doses should also be considered for the UK, European and world populations where appropriate. The methods for assessing individual and collective radiation doses should follow the guidance given in 'Principles for the Assessment of Prospective Public Doses arising from Authorised Discharges of Radioactive Waste to the Environment August 2012'⁸. It is important that the methods used in any radiological dose assessment are clear and that key parameter values and assumptions are given (for example, the location of the representative persons, habit data and models used in the assessment).

Any radiological impact assessment should also consider the possibility of short-term planned releases and the potential for accidental releases of radionuclides to the environment. This can be done by referring to compliance with the Ionising Radiation Regulations and other relevant legislation and guidance.

The radiological impact of any solid waste storage and disposal should also be addressed in the assessment to ensure that this complies with UK practice and legislation; information should be provided on the category of waste involved (e.g. very low level waste, VLLW). It is also important that the radiological impact associated with the decommissioning of the site is addressed. Of relevance here is PHE advice on radiological criteria and assessments for land-based solid waste disposal facilities⁹. PHE advises that assessments of radiological impact during the operational phase should be performed in the same way as for any site authorised to discharge radioactive waste. PHE also advises that assessments of radiological impact during the post operational phase of the facility should consider long timescales (possibly in excess of 10,000 years) that are appropriate to the long-lived nature of the radionuclides in the waste, some of which may have half-lives of millions of years. The radiological assessment should consider exposure of members of hypothetical representative groups for a number of scenarios including the expected migration of radionuclides from the facility, and inadvertent intrusion into the facility once institutional control has ceased. For scenarios where the probability of occurrence can be estimated, both doses and health risks should be presented, where the health risk is the product of the probability that the scenario occurs, the dose if the scenario occurs and the health risk corresponding to unit dose. For inadvertent intrusion, the dose if the intrusion occurs should be presented. It is recommended that the post-closure phase be considered as a series of timescales, with the approach changing from more quantitative to more qualitative as times further in the future are considered. The level of detail and sophistication in the modelling should also reflect the level of hazard presented by the waste. The

⁷ HPA (2008) Guidance on the application of dose coefficients for the embryo, fetus and breastfed infant in dose assessments for members of the public. Doc HPA, RCE-5, 1-78, available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/embryo-fetus-and-breastfed-infant-application-of-dose-coefficients>

⁸ The Environment Agency (EA), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Health Protection Agency and the Food Standards Agency (FSA). Principles for the Assessment of Prospective Public Doses arising from Authorised Discharges of Radioactive Waste to the Environment August 2012. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/296390/geho1202bklh-e-e.pdf

⁹ HPA RCE-8, Radiological Protection Objectives for the Land-based Disposal of Solid Radioactive Wastes, February 2009

uncertainty due to the long timescales means that the concept of collective dose has very limited use, although estimates of collective dose from the 'expected' migration scenario can be used to compare the relatively early impacts from some disposal options if required.

Annex 1

Human health risk assessment (chemical pollutants)

The points below are cross-cutting and should be considered when undertaking a human health risk assessment:

- The promoter should consider including Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) numbers alongside chemical names, where referenced in the ES
- Where available, the most recent United Kingdom standards for the appropriate media (e.g. air, water, and/or soil) and health-based guideline values should be used when quantifying the risk to human health from chemical pollutants. Where UK standards or guideline values are not available, those recommended by the European Union or World Health Organisation can be used
- When assessing the human health risk of a chemical emitted from a facility or operation, the background exposure to the chemical from other sources should be taken into account
- When quantitatively assessing the health risk of genotoxic and carcinogenic chemical pollutants PHE does not favour the use of mathematical models to extrapolate from high dose levels used in animal carcinogenicity studies to well below the observed region of a dose-response relationship. When only animal data are available, we recommend that the 'Margin of Exposure' (MOE) approach¹⁰ is used

¹⁰ Benford D et al. 2010. Application of the margin of exposure approach to substances in food that are genotoxic and carcinogenic. Food Chem Toxicol 48 Suppl 1: S2-24



A1 Northumberland – Morpeth to Felton Improvement Scheme

Royal Mail Group Limited comments on information to be provided in applicant's Environmental Statement

Introduction

Reference the letter from PINS to Royal Mail dated 25 January 2018 requesting Royal Mail's comments on the information that should be provided in Highways England's Environmental Statement for the proposed A1 Northumberland – Morpeth to Felton Improvement Scheme.

Royal Mail's consultants BNP Paribas Real Estate have reviewed the applicant's Scoping Report as submitted to the Secretary of State on 25 January 2018.

Royal Mail– relevant information

Royal Mail is responsible for providing efficient mail sorting and delivery nationally. As the Universal Service Provider under the Postal Services Act 2011, Royal Mail has a statutory duty to deliver mail to every residential and business address in the country as well as collecting mail from all Post Offices and post boxes six days a week.

Royal Mail's postal sorting and delivery operations rely heavily on road communications. Royal Mail's ability to provide efficient mail collection, sorting and delivery to the public is sensitive to changes in the capacity of the highway network.

Royal Mail is a major road user nationally. Disruption to the highway network and traffic delays can have direct consequences on Royal Mail's operations, its ability to meet the Universal Service Obligation and comply with the regulatory regime for postal services thereby presenting a significant risk to Royal Mail's business.

Royal Mail therefore wishes to ensure the protection of its future ability to provide an efficient mail sorting and delivery service to the public in accordance with its statutory obligations which may potentially be adversely affected by the construction of this proposed road scheme.

Royal Mail's Delivery Office at Morpeth is only c 1.5 miles from the southern end of the proposed improvements.

The affected section of the A1 is a strategically important distribution route for Royal Mail operational traffic. Also, in exercising its statutory duties Royal Mail vehicles use on a daily basis all of the local roads that may potentially be affected by additional traffic arising from the construction of the proposed improvements.

It is envisaged that the proposed A1 Northumberland improvements will, once constructed, have benefits for Royal Mail operational traffic movements. However, Royal Mail is concerned about the potential for disruption to its operations during the construction phase. In particular, Royal Mail requires more information and certainty about traffic management measures that will be put in place to mitigate construction impacts on traffic flows on the A1 and the surrounding local highway network.



Royal Mail's comments on information that should be provided in Highways England's Environmental Statement

In view of the above, Royal Mail has the following comments / requests:

1. The ES should include information on the needs of major road users (such as Royal Mail) and acknowledge the requirement to ensure that major road users are not disrupted through full advance consultation by the applicant at the appropriate time in the DCO and development process.
2. The ES and DCO application should include detailed information on the construction traffic mitigation measures that are proposed to be implemented by Highways England / its contractor, including a draft Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP).
3. Royal Mail is fully pre-consulted by Highways England / its contractor on any proposed road closures / diversions/ alternative access arrangements, hours of working and the content of the CTMP. The ES should acknowledge the need for this consultation with Royal Mail and other relevant major road users.

Royal Mail is able to supply Highways England with information on its road usage / trips if required.

Should PINS or Highways England have any queries in relation to the above then in the first instance please contact Joe Walsh (joseph.walsh@royalmail.com) of Royal Mail's Legal Services Team or Daniel Parry-Jones (daniel.parry-jones@bnpparibas.com) of BNP Paribas Real Estate.

From: assetrecords@utilityassets.co.uk
To: prvs=05593BCC77=environmentalservices@pins.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: Re: A1 Northumberland - Morpeth to Felton Improvement Scheme - Environmental Impact Assessment Notification and Consultation
Date: 25 January 2018 16:08:38

Thank you for recently contacting Utility Assets plant record department. We will check whether we have any plant present at your site and contact you within 5 - 7 working days ONLY if we own any plant in the vicinity.

If we do not reply, we do not have any apparatus in the area of your works. However, PLEASE TAKE CARE when excavating around electricity cables in the event that not all cables present may be accurately shown. We recommend you use detecting equipment to map the site before excavating and fully comply with HSG47. DO NOT assume that a cable is dead if you don't have a record of its presence. The cable must be treated as live unless PROVEN DEAD by the cable owner. In case of emergency please contact your local electricity distribution company.

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